JULY—DECEMBER 2004 HOLY CONVOCATION / QUADRENNIAL ELECTIONS EDITION

THE WHOLE TRUTH

THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE INTERNATIONAL CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST



The Whole Truth

The Official Magazine of the Church Of God In Christ

MISSION

It is the mission of *The Whole Truth* magazine to provide the general constituency of the Church Of God In Christ with a quality publication which will edify, educate, and empower. This will be accomplished through special features which include coverage of religious and news events relevant to the Church Of God In Christ; profiles of COGIC members; and literary contributions by COGIC members. *The Whole Truth* shall endeavor to effect greater unity within this denominational body of Christ by communicating the program and message of the leadership of our National Church and by promoting and utilizing the wealth and resources of journalistic talent from among our own constituency.

THE LEGACY CONTINUES: PROCLAIM THE GOOD NEWS

The Whole Truth is the official news source for the more than 5 million members of the International Church Of God In Christ, the nation's premier Holiness-Pentecostal denomination. The historically acclaimed Bishop Charles Harrison Mason founded the Church Of God In Christ in 1897; and since its inception the predominately Black body has impacted all segments of Christendom throughout the world. *The Whole Truth* can trace its existence to the 1900s when the news journal reported on various social and spiritual issues, and the saints have embraced the publication as their official news source from that point in history.

If you are a member in good standing with the Church Of God In Christ, but do not consider yourself a professional writer, or if you are a journalist who meets that same criteria, *The Whole Truth*'s editorial staff would like to hear from you. It would be an honor to report the latest newsworthy events concerning your church, district, and jurisdiction. Let your brothers and sisters in the Lord rejoice, praise, and pray with you as they read about achievements, breakthroughs, current events, conventions, home-going celebrations, weddings, etc.

Please be advised that all articles, related resource information, and photos are placed in *The Whole Truth*'s archives and will not be returned. Additionally, the editorial staff at *The Whole Truth* reserves the right to reject, edit, and rewrite all submittals.

You may send your articles, news updates, and photos to *The Whole Truth*, Attention: Editor-In-Chief, 2500 Lamar Avenue, Memphis, Tennessee 38114.

July - December 2004* Holy Convocation/Quadrennial Elections Edition
THE WHOLE TRUTH NEWS MAGAZINE
THE OFFICIAL MAGAZINE OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

TRIBUTE:

Preserving the Legacy of Bishop C.H. Mason

A *Whole Truth Spotlight on Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson*

Public Official Profile: Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton

The Annual Journey to the International Holy Convocation

International Holy Convocation to Remain in Memphis Through 2007

90th Anniversary Celebration of COGIC in Michigan and Canada

COGIC Unites with Assemblies of God to Expand Urban Missions

Class Listing for Bishop O.T. Jones Sr. Memorial Institute

From the Desk of General Supervisor Mother Willie Mae Rivers

A Look at the Quadrennial Elections

Overview of Activities and Order of Worship for 97th Int. Holy Convocation

A Look at COGIC Charities

We're Marching to Zion: Bishop Frank O. White and Zion Cathedral

Bishop Ted Thomas and Virginia's First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

Homegoing Celebration of Bishop Samuel Smith

Profile: Dr. Oliver J. Haney

Heavenville in Evansville: Supt. William Simmons Sr. and Holy Temple

COGIC Woman Profile: Evangelist Glenda Williams-Goodson

Highlights of National Meetings:

Women's Dept, AIM, and General Council of Pastors and Elders

The Whole Truth

contents

3. *From the Editor*
4. *A Whole Truth Spotlight on Presiding Bishop G.E Patterson*
10. *A Whole Truth Public Offical Profile: County Mayor A.C. Wharton*
14. *The Annual Journey to International Holy Convocation*
16. *International Holy Convocation to Remain in Memphis Through 2007*
18. *Legacy Of Bishop C.H. Mason Celebrated at Birthday Observance*
22. *A Look at the Quadrennial Elections*
22. *Quadrennial Kudos*
24. *COGIC Charities*
26. *Preserving the Legacy of Bishop Charles Harrison Mason*
29. *COGIC Unites with Assemblies of God to Expand Urban Missions*
30. *Virginia's First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Dedicates New Headquarters*
32. *Heavenville in Evansville; Supt.William Simmons and Holy Temple*
35. *From the Desk of General Supervisor Mother Willie Mae Rivers*
36. *Dr. Oliver Haney*
38. *90th Anniversary Celebration of COGIC in Michigan*
40. *Overview of Activities and Worship for 97th Holy Convocation*
42. *Bishop O.T. Jones Institute for 97th Holy Convocation*
43. *We're Marching to Zion; Bishop Frank White and New Zion*
44. *The Homegoing Celebration of Bishop Samuel Smith*
46. *Quadrennial Election's Roster*
47. *AIM 2004*
48. *A Whole Truth National Director's Spotlight; Supt. Walter Davis*
49. *Happy Birthday Mother Goyens*
50. *COGIC Woman; Evangelist Glenda Williams-Goodson*
53. *General Council of Pastors and Elders Conference*
54. *Pastoral Care and Counseling*
56. *International Women's Convention 2004*
59. *Book Review: True Vine*
61. *COGIC Vendor Talks on Efficiency*
62. *COGIC on the Move*

ABOUT THE COVER: *This awesome stain glass image of Founding Father, Bishop C.H. Mason, is located in in the Prayer Chapel of our world-wide headquarters, Historic Mason Temple.*

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from the editor

DEAR SUBSCRIBERS,

I praise God for blessing me to render unto you Holy Greetings, in the name of our Lord and Savior Jesus Christ. I am truly glad for all of God's countless Blessings, and above all, to God be the Glory for Salvation and the Baptism in and the Indwelling of the Holy Ghost.

Saints, it is indeed a joy for me to present to you the ***2004 International Holy Convocation*** edition of *The Whole Truth News Magazine*, the official news source of the International Church Of God In Christ. This issue combines the last two quarters of the calendar year to provide a special focus on the **Holy Convocation / Quadrennial Elections**.

It is my sincere desire that the 97th *International Holy Convocation* will be a source of spiritual enlightenment and personal enrichment for you. Let me take this time to encourage you to *Keep On* Keeping *On for the Lord* – and remain focused on the theme of the 96th *International Holy Convocation: Contending for the Faith* ***(Jude 3)***.

Congratulations are in order to our illustrious Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and the distinguished members of the General Board for four years of exemplary leadership. The Presiding Bishop has decreed that ***Let Peace Continue (Ephesians 4:3)*** is the theme for this year's International Holy Convocation.

I am confident that because of the exceptional leadership exhibited by and the godly life lived by our Chief Apostle — the *Peace of God* will indeed prevail in all of the activities related to the ***97th*** International Holy Convocation. I am joining in with the Saints who are praying that the spiritual significance of this most sacred conference will also be observed during our ***Quadrennial Elections***.

The editorial staff of *The Whole Truth* stands ready to give you the latest information regarding the events of the *2004 International Holy Convocation* in the upcoming editions of your *News Journal of Record*. From the 1900s until 2004, the challenge for *The Whole Truth* has remained the same – to give an accurate and well-written account of the news as it relates to the Church Of God In Christ. It is well documented that the membership depends on this publication to have an authentic and final word on a saintly body that has received international acclaim as the world's premier Holiness-Pentecostal denomination.

Yours In Christ
Elder Calvin L. Burns

Editor-In-Chief, *The Whole Truth*



Elder Calvin L. Burns is greeted by Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton

A WHOLE TRUTH SPOTLIGHT

Our Chief Apostle and Publisher Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson

LET PEACE CONTINUE!

Yes, the editorial staff of *The Whole Truth* is standing in full support of Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and is embracing his theme for the year and the 97th International Holy Convocation as the publication's official salutation. After all, it would be an overt act of disrespect for COGIC's official news source not to endorse an official act of its publisher. At the 2004 Leadership Conference our Chief Apostle revealed that God had indeed given him the declaration of Let Peace Continue (Ephesians 4:3) as the Church's official theme for 2004 and the 97th Annual International Holy Convocation.

In making the announcement, the Presiding Bishop recalled how the late Bishop W.M. Roberts of Chicago would salute his members with the greeting: "Peace Be Unto The Saints." The congregation then would reply, "Peace Be Multiplied." The recollection of this moving event spurred his inspiration for the theme: Let Peace Continue.

It is the genuine wish of our Chief Shepherd that the candidates for office and the membership at large will maintain their saintly focus during 2004, the year of our quadrennial elections. He is convinced that peace will prevail if the candidates and their supporters will seek God's help in taking the high road in campaigning and bypassing the low road of "secular tactics in campaigning."

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson certainly has been found on higher ground in dealing with all the challenges he has encountered in his role as Chief Apostle of the nation's premier Holiness-Pentecostal denomination. In fact, since his historic election on November 14, 2000, Bishop G.E. Patterson has personified the Holy Bible's description of an anointed vessel of God who has been given a Divine Appointment of Leadership.

During his highly productive tenure, Bishop Patterson has provided visionary leadership that has resulted in a return to our holiness roots, spiritual and educational growth, extension of ministry into the community, and church expansion.

The illustrious Bishop Gilbert Earl Patterson's ascension to the highest office of leadership for the internationally renowned Church Of God In Christ gives him the following stately titles and duties: The Most Reverend, Presiding Bishop, Chief Apostle of the ecclesiastical body and President of the civil corporation.

This humble man of God, however, has not allowed the prominence of his leadership roles to serve as a distraction for remaining focused on his Call by God to serve humanity as a minister of The Gospel.

During his State of the Church Address in April before the General Assembly, the Presiding Bishop made the following observation:



"While I am most appreciative for the lofty titles and positions which you have given me, I have endeavored to never lose sight of my God-given position in this office; the position of a servant."

Indicative of a highly-respected bible scholar, the Presiding Bishop very astutely made reference to the Holy Scriptures to reinforce his position of being a servant for God's people, noting: "I have endeavored to never lose sight of the words of our Lord when the mother of James and John sought to elevate her two sons. In Mark 10:42-44 (KJV)":

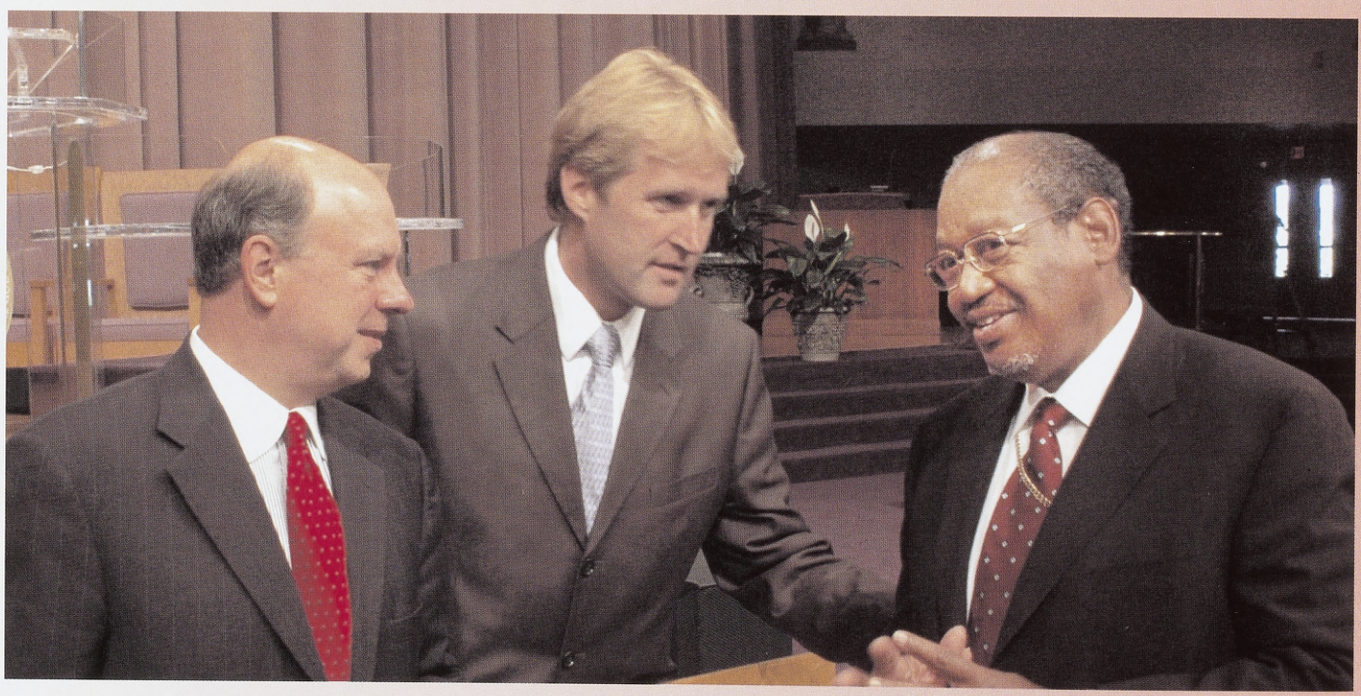
Jesus called them to him, and saith unto them, Ye know that they which are accounted to rule over the Gentiles exercise lordship over them; and their great ones exercise authority upon them. But so shall it not be among you: but whosoever will be great among you, shall be your minister. And whoever of you will be the chiefest, shall be servant of all.

"The Apostle Paul put it in this language in I Corinthians 4:1-2 (KJV)":

Let a man so account of us, as of the ministers of Christ, and stewards of the mysteries of God. Moreover it is required in stewards, that a man be found faithful.

Our Chief Apostle has indeed proven to be a faithful steward for the work and membership of the Church Of God In Christ. In fact, since his election, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson has contributed more than $500,000 (a half million dollars) in personal gifts to the International Church.

"This amount does not begin to reflect the total gifts that I have given during my tenure, but it is the official record of gifts given during the April sessions of the General Assembly," he said.



Presiding Bishop G. E. Patterson discusses the upcoming International Holy Convocation with Kevin Kane and John Oros of the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau.

Our visionary leader notes he has taken every precaution to ensure that he is not overbearing or self-serving in his role as Presiding Bishop.

"I have endeavored to serve God in sincerity and walk before His saints in humility, being faithful both to the Lord and His Church," our Chief Apostle observed. "I have

practiced the teachings of the Apostle Paul as he taught in Romans 12:17-18 (KJV): Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceable with all men."

He adds that following a peaceful, non-vindictive agenda as the highest ranking official in our Church, involves not abusing the honorarium and love-offering system.

"In my capacity as Presiding Bishop it has been my responsibility to assume the leadership of at least 25 jurisdictions, at the demise or incapacitation of their Jurisdictional Prelate," he said. "I can truly testify that I have not taken money from a single jurisdictional treasury. The only money I received is that which the jurisdictional officials, without solicitation, gave to me as an honorarium."

The Most Reverend G.E. Patterson explains that since his first day in office, he has followed a plan of leadership that calls for him to "unify, spiritualize, and enhance" our Church.

Our Chief Apostle is a product of COGIC, and he is keenly attuned to the rich and unique culture of our denomination. After his victory over former Presiding Bishop Chandler David Owens, Bishop G.E. Patterson was cognizant of the fact that because of traditions based on loyalties to individuals — there were pockets of resistance to his leadership.

The Presiding Bishop addressed the issue of taking the helm of a "divided church" by selecting two distinguished and highly respected Bishops – who had not been supporters of his campaign, to serve as his 1st and 2nd Assistants. In fact, 1st Assistant Presiding Bishop Charles E. Blake had mounted his own campaign for the Office of Presiding Bishop, and 2nd Assistant J. Neaul Haynes had served as the 1st Assistant to the former Presiding Bishop.

Our innovative Chief Shepherd was well-aware that this was a departure from business as usual. He emphasizes that his decision was made after prayerful deliberation, and it was designed as a unifying element.

"My second act as Presiding Bishop was to make two unprecedented nominations for 1st and 2nd Assistant Presiding Bishop," he said. "I say those nominations were unprecedented because historically no Presiding Bishop has immediately nominated one who was a candidate for the same office. My choice for second assistant was a secret between God and me. I never discussed that idea with any human creature, but I believe it was divinely inspired as a measure to help bring together a divided church."

With the extension of the olive branch for unity successfully implemented, the newly elected Presiding Bishop moved forward with his mission to enhance the spiritual body while renovating the various administrative and worship facilities of COGIC.

His insightful and cutting-edge leadership has made an impact in the following areas:

Re-emphasizing the Spiritual Significance of the International Holy Convocation

Prior to Bishop G.E. Patterson's election as the Fourth Presiding Bishop, a groundswell of concern was emanating from the general membership concerning the focus of the International Holy Convocation. There was a consensus that the spiritual significance of this most sacred event was not being emphasized.

Our Chief Apostle resolved this matter by implementing a Solemn Assembly as a time for setting a spiritual tone for the International Holy Convocation. In addition, a daily teaching session featuring lessons by the Presiding Bishop became part of the Worship Agenda. Also, the Commissioner for Education was given the assignment of expanding the seminars and classes offered through the Bishop O.T. Jones, Sr. Memorial Institute.

"We have initiated 30 hours of fasting and prayer to begin the Holy Convocation," the Presiding Bishop observed. "We have also added Morning Manna which features prayer and teaching by the Presiding Bishop."

Bishop G.E. Patterson notes that he has been encouraged by the results of his spiritual implementations for the International Holy Convocations.

"I believe that these implementations have influenced our leaders and our young preachers to again carry their Bibles to the convocations," he said. "General Board members are kneeling before sitting. Leaders are coming to the National meetings on time and are visibly worshipping the Lord. There is a new spirit of love and fellowship in this great church."

Renovation of Mason Temple and Extension of Headquarters

Immediately after his election, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson made the renovation of Historic Mason Temple a top priority. The first phase of the renovation included air conditioning, new boilers, new lighting for the auditorium and television crew, adding viewing screens and projectors, lowering the ceiling, new restrooms and remodeled offices.

On Thursday, April 8, our anointed and visionary leader concluded the negotiations for the purchase of 14 acres of the former Fowler Homes housing development. The purchase price is $450,000. The Presiding Bishop with the support of the General Board and General Assembly will move forward with that part of the Master Plan which calls for the extension of our Headquarters to Crump Boulevard.

All Saints Bible College

Located in the lower level of Historic Mason Temple, All Saints Bible College offers both Associate and Bachelor of Arts degrees. The offerings are designed to serve persons who seek a biblically-based liberal arts degree and desire to prepare either for graduate school or service in full-time ministry.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson notes that this four-year institution of higher learning is the development of an educational concept of First Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson Sr., who desired to establish All Saints University. The Master Plan designed by the Presidium calls for a new facility for All Saints Bible College to be built on Crump Boulevard.

COGIC Charities

Another innovative concept of our Presiding Bishop, COGIC Charities was established as a community-distress outreach ministry for the International Church.

"We were blessed to initiate COGIC Charities which presently has over a half million dollars in its treasury to be used for charitable relief in the case of natural disasters and emergencies," The Presiding Bishop explains. "For example, we (COGIC Charities) spent $10,000 to purchase bottled water when Memphis was hit with a devastating storm this past (2003) July. More than 300,000 homes were without power. We fed ten thousand people at the expense of our local church (Temple of Deliverance/Cathedral of Bountiful Blessings) and supplied bottled water at the expense of COGIC Charities."

Chisca Hotel Redevelopment Project

Under the supervision of Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and the approval of the General Assembly, COGIC has entered a partnership with Group One Productions, Inc. of Winter Park, Florida to initiate the Chisca Hotel Redevelopment Project. The partnership is designed for COGIC to profit from the venture in its role as landowner. The plans for the more

than $80 million project call for the redevelopment of the property at 272 S. Main, and the establishment of a new hotel. In addition, some of the 300 rooms will be converted into offices, retail space, and restaurants.

This historic property was donated to COGIC by the Snowden family during the tenure of First Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson Sr., and was fully utilized by the International Church for a number of years. For the past several years, however, the property has been vacant.

"I believe that we are on the edge of a tremendous success with our downtown Chisca Hotel and adjacent properties," the Presiding Bishop stated. "The General Board Committee, consisting of Bishops W.W. Hamilton, Nathaniel Wyoming Wells and Trustee Board Chairman Charles Mason Ford are working diligently with the proposed developers. There is a great possibility that some construction may begin before this year is ended. I have given a clear directive that (a) we will not sell our property, (b) we will put no cash money into the development of the property, (c) while we will not seek to operate a Hotel business, we will expect to receive hundreds of thousands of dollars per year as a result of monthly rents and lease payments. The church's investment was made when Presiding Bishop J.O. Patterson Sr. acquired these properties."

Purchasing of a New Publishing House

The COGIC Publishing House has moved from its old location at 291 S. Hernando, to its current site at 2500 Lamar, the former home of B&M Printing Company. The dynamics that prompted the move of COGIC's print and publication ministry provided another opportunity for Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson to give a cogent display of why his administration has become renowned for being one of innovation and keen spiritual insight.

City of Memphis officials advised the Presiding Bishop in early 2002 that they would execute eminent domain to acquire the 291 S. Hernando site. Elected public servants from both the city and county were intent on obtaining the property so they could honor their commitment to the National Basketball Association to build a $250 million arena for the Memphis Grizzlies.

"They (the City of Memphis) were going to take the property by eminent domain if we didn't workout something," the Presiding Bishop recalled. "They were trying to give us less than a million dollars but, somehow, I friendly persuaded them to come on up to $1.8 million."

Our Chief Apostle used those funds to purchase the building at 2500 Lamar – which is a 70,000 square ft facility that was built exclusively for a printing enterprise and it was available.

"The building had been idle for two years," Presiding Bishop Patterson reminisced. "It was just sitting here, waiting on the Church Of God In Christ to take it."

These impressive accomplishments certainly reinforce one of the scriptures that our leader quoted earlier in this Spotlight, and one that he uses for a personal call to action – Romans 12: 17-18 (KJV): *Recompense to no man evil for evil. Provide things honest in the sight of all men. If it be possible, as much as lieth in you, live peaceably with all men.*

PEACE BE MULTIPLIED

A WHOLE TRUTH

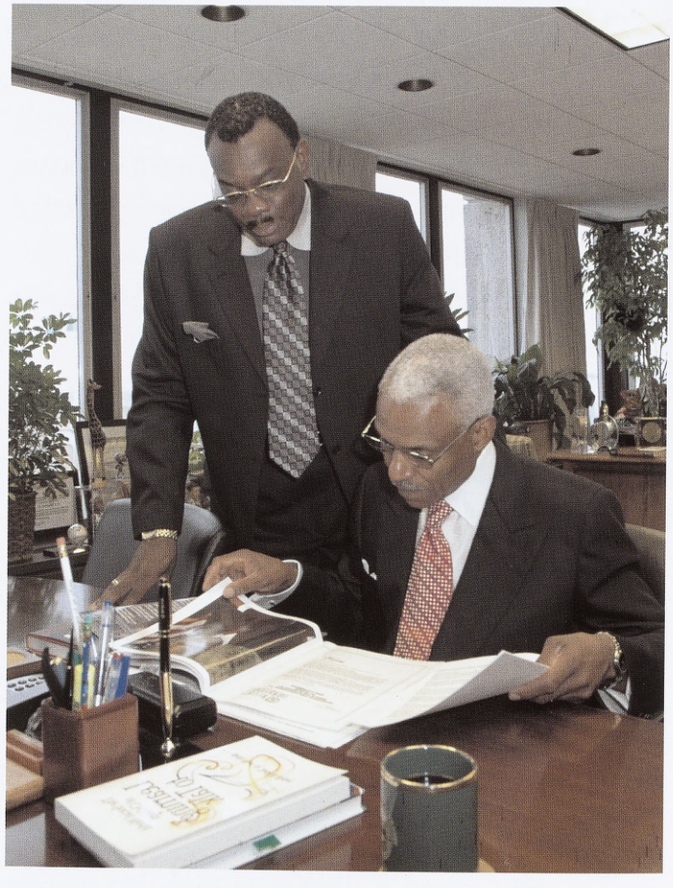
PUBLIC OFFICIAL PROFILE SHELBY COUNTY MAYOR AC WHARTON, JR.

Memphis, Tennessee — Life has been described as the: *Original one-way street; the first thing we get and the last item we give up*. Occasionally in this journey called life one has the opportunity to meet a person who has become the living embodiment of an ideology, the symbol of something in which a countless number of people believe in, or a philosophy that they subscribe to. Take for instance the principle of integrity in politics. As Saints of the Most High God, we are convinced that leadership has been ordained by the Lord, whether it's in the ecclesiastical or secular arena. We expect our public officials to reflect the highest standards of general ethics and personal character. Recently, the editorial staff of *The Whole Truth* had the honor of interviewing such an individual. This person is as distinguished as a *Nobel Prize* winner, masters the English language as well as any renowned orator, and has earned a reputation as a public official that denotes the life of a Christian servant.

Meet the Honorable A C Wharton Jr., Mayor of Shelby County. Mayor Wharton, a native of Lebanon, Tennessee, made history in August of 2002, when he became the first African-American to be elected Mayor of this county. Memphis is one of the eight cities located within the boundaries of Shelby County. In fact, about 67 percent of the county's tax base comes from the City of Memphis.

The remaining 33 percent of Shelby County's tax revenue is collected from the following cities: Arlington, Bartlett, Collierville, Cordova, Germantown, Lakeland, and Millington. Mayor Wharton finds himself in the unique position of serving in a county that also has a city mayor. In fact, the Honorable Dr. W.W. Herenton, Mayor for the City of Memphis, also has the distinction of being the first African-American to be elected to that position.

In the past, the Mayor of Shelby County for the most part concentrated on being responsible for the citizenry outside the Memphis City Limits. This was definitely the correct path to take for one who was intent on setting a course of being politically astute. Why involve yourself with the various complex issues of an urban area, when you can focus on the relatively care-free life of those in the suburbs? For example, a demographic study of the Greater Memphis area shows that some of Tennessee's wealthiest citizens live in the section of Shelby County that covers Collierville, Cordova and Germantown. Meanwhile, Memphis' inner-city is home for a staggering number of economically disadvantaged families, the report reveals.



Shelby County Mayor AC Wharton Jr. prepares to be interviewed by Elder Calvin L. Burns of ***The Whole Truth.***

For Mayor Wharton the answer to this question is quite simple. "I am mayor for all of the citizens of Shelby County," he emphatically states. "Memphis is part of Shelby County, and I am just as accountable to those citizens as I am for any member of my constituency."

To prove he was just not uttering idle words, Mayor Wharton convened a series of town hall meetings throughout the city of Memphis. As he boldly journeyed

into territory that had once been considered the City Mayor's domain, Mayor Wharton held true to his message of accountability. Whether speaking in the southwest area of Memphis known as Westwood, or the Hickory Hill area in east Memphis, his message was the same. His dialogue revolves around the theme of integrity and being accountable. And for Mayor Wharton, that means implementing policies and guidelines that will ensure that all of the employees of Shelby County are held responsible for providing quality services in government.

Shortly after his election, Mayor Wharton received a rude awakening concerning corruption in Shelby County Government. It was learned that a top aide to the former mayor, who had not been retained by the new administration, but remained on the county payroll – had charged thousands of dollars of personal expenses on his county-issued credit card. Then, in the following weeks it was revealed that the misuse of Shelby County credit cards was a chronic problem among Shelby County employees.

The new mayor handled the smoldering crisis with the precision and decisiveness of a veteran test pilot. He restructured the policy regarding the issuance and usage of county credit cards – while making it perfectly clear that this or any other inappropriate conduct would not be tolerated under his watch.

"As your mayor, I am here to help you," he said in a pastoral tone. "If you need help doing your job, we will see to it that you get the necessary training or equipment. If you are having problems with substance abuse, the proper counseling will be provided…If you are misusing county credit cards or other equipment you will be fired!"

Holding true to his word; some county employees were terminated for the misuse of county-issued credit cards or equipment. Later, when the former mayoral aide was formerly charged by law enforcement authorities and subsequently pleaded guilty of misusing his county-issued credit cards – Mayor Wharton had him removed from the county payroll.

It seemed at this point that the unfortunate issue was closed. Well, almost. Recently it was brought to the mayor's attention that members of his staff had been part of a "conspiracy" that allowed the former aide to be reinstated to the county payroll – which allowed him to retire and double his pension payments.

After an internal investigation confirmed those actions; Mayor Wharton asked for and received the resignations from two of his top assistants. Two other Shelby County administrators were reprimanded for their roles in the incident.

Thus, the message eminating from the Office of the Shelby County Mayor was readily comprehended. In this administration it would not be business as usual. It was apparent that Mayor Wharton would hold his staff to the same standards of honesty and fair play that he had set for all other county employees.

Mayor Wharton's background well-prepared him for the challenges he encounters as CEO for one of the largest counties in Tennessee. He served as Chief Public Defender in the Shelby County Public Defender's Office from 1980-2002. During that same time he also was the Managing Partner for the Law Firm of Wharton & Wharton & Associates.

As Director of Legal Services, Mr. Wharton developed and directed one of the nation's first Senior Citizens Legal Services programs, expanded Memphis Legal Services Program from one-county program to three and tripled the number of attorneys. Additionally, he served as a member of the Board of Directors for the Memphis and Shelby County Crime Commission, and the Methodist Hospital Systems. He chaired the Tennessee Higher Education Commission, and later headed THEC during a time that the agency was weathering some stormy political waters from some state legislators concerning its funding and existence.

The articulate public official received his undergraduate degree with distinction in Political Science from Tennessee State University. He earned a Doctorate of Jurisprudence from The University of Mississippi, where he graduated in the top third of his class.

Some of his career highlights and honors include: *U.S. Attorney General's Honor Law Program*, being appointed a *Special Justice to the Tennessee Supreme Court in 1971 and 1996*, receiving the *1980 Diakonia Award for Service*, the *1979 Bill of Rights Award*, and the *1980 Distinguished Service Award, Mallory Knights, Inc.*

Mayor Wharton is a Christian, a member of the Church of Christ. His charming wife, Ruby, is also an attorney. They are the proud parents of four sons.

It was because of his well-established track record for having a commitment to excellence, an outstanding

record for community service and civic duty, a devotion to family, his love for God and compassion for humanity — that A C Wharton received an overwhelming endorsement from every segment of the community in his bid to become Mayor of Shelby County. Republicans, Democrats, various ethnic groups and races, people of faith, and those who don't acknowledge God – all concur that his Honor, the Mayor, is just a genuine /good person.

Mayor Wharton told *The Whole Truth* that he decided to run for the top post in Shelby County because he was confident that his training as an attorney, community service and other "objective experience" more than qualified him to run and be elected to that position. In addition to those qualifications, he equally believed in his abilities to take Shelby County to a higher level of governmental service.

"It was my belief that because I am a person, who by nature, my very spirit – my essence is to look for the best in everybody – assume you are going to get the best out of everybody; regardless of their race – regardless of where they live in the county regardless of their partisan affiliation," he explained. "I felt that with this city and county poised to go to much higher levels – that the only thing really holding us back; was anything that would divide us."

The dedicated public servant added that he felt God had blessed him with the demeanor to move the county forward. And, it was in that spirit that he entered the race for Mayor of Shelby County. Mayor Wharton used a medical metaphor to describe to *The Whole Truth* what he encountered during his crucial first 100 days in office.

"We had a patient who was in critical condition and deteriorating rapidly. The patient being county government," he observed. "The patient was hemorrhaging severely in the area of ethics. The patient was hemorrhaging severely in the area of finances and budgetary concerns. The patient was expiring quickly in the connection with its critically important head start program."

Indicative of his exemplary management style, the mayor addressed all of those issues by offering solutions – while opting not to point a finger of accusation or blame at someone else. And, now, he notes – "the patient has been stabilized."

Other areas of diagnosis by the mayor includes his work with state legislators to secure an additional $10 million in funding for the Regional Medical Center at Memphis, his discussions concerning finding a better formula for funding the Memphis and Shelby County schools, and addressing the issue of having the proper infrastructure to meet the demands of the numerous subdivisions that are mushrooming all around the county.

At this point in the interview we turned our attention to COGIC and the upcoming International Holy Convocation. Mayor Wharton said he had met Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and other members of the General Board to discuss the county's role in the Church's redevelopment plans for Headquarters and the former Chisca Hotel.

"I am extremely impressed with Presiding Bishop Patterson and all of the members of the Presidium. Their plans for the redevelopment of your headquarters and other properties are the most meticulous and thought-out vision that I've seen. They were overwhelming impressive," he said.

Mayor Wharton is indeed a distinguished gentleman, who serves as an illuminating example of the positive impact a Christian can make in the public service arena. He concluded the interview by making the following analogy concerning the spiritual significance of having COGIC headquartered in Memphis.

"I can think of no better anchor than serving as the Jerusalem for the Church Of God In Christ," he said. "Sure, it is great to have FedEx and AutoZone to call Memphis and Shelby County home…., but just think, thousands of people are coming to Memphis (to attend the Annual International Holy Convocation) and are being spiritually rejuvenated for the next 12 months. In this day and time when it appears that just anything goes, the Church Of God In Christ has not seen fit to try to adapt….the saints know what they stand for and they know their creed and foundation. I can compare the Church Of God In Christ to the writing of John Greenleaf Whittier (1807 -1892 known as the "great poet of the Abolitionist Movement") in his writing *The Last Leaf*. In that work, a man painted a leaf on a tree because his friend, who was ill had resolved that he would die when the last leaf fell from the tree outside of his window. I see the Church Of God In Christ as the last leaf, because it stands by its convictions."

J.O. PATTERSON SR. FINE ARTS SCHOLARSHIP DEPARTMENT

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST, INC.

G.E. Patterson, Presiding Bishop







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The Annual Journey to COGIC's Holy Land MEMPHIS, TN; For the 2004 International Holy Convocation

By Calvin L. Burns

Memphis, Tennessee – More than 40,000 Saints of the Church Of God In Christ will tarry here November 8-15 for their 97th International Holy Convocation. Memphis serves as the worldwide Headquarters for the more than 5 million members of COGIC, the nation's largest Holiness-Pentecostal denomination. *Let Peace Continue (Ephesians 4:3)* is the theme for the *2004 International Holy Convocation*. In addition to the worship opportunities, the delegates will be able to absorb a wealth of knowledge at the numerous workshops and classes offered by the body's Bishop O.T. Jones Sr. Memorial Institute.

Established in 1897 by Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, the Church Of God In Christ was originally headquartered in Jackson, Mississippi. In 1907, Bishop Mason restructured the denomination and convened the first General Assembly in Memphis. Since that time, the members of COGIC have considered this city their Jerusalem, or *Holy Land*.

Members of the Church Of God In Christ are often referred to as *Saints* because of their adherence to the *Doctrine of Sanctification* (Lev. 11:44, John 17:17, Acts 1:8). COGIC is recognized for being Holiness-Pentecostal in discipline and doctrine because of the significance given to the Biblical occurrence known as the ***Day of Pentecost***, the 50th day after the Passover, or Easter (Acts 2:4).

The highlight of this most sacred setting will be the Official Address of The Most Reverend G.E. Patterson, Presiding Bishop, Chief Apostle of the ecclesiastical body and President of the civil corporation for this internationally renowned assembly. He will deliver his fourth annual address as the Presiding Bishop on the **Lord's Day** Sunday, November 14, at the Pyramid Arena. ***The Lord's Day Worship Celebration*** begins at **9 a.m.**

Additionally, 2004 marks the quadrennial elections for COGIC. On Tuesday, November 16, more than 4,000 registered delegates to the General Assembly, COGIC's legislative branch will elect officers to the following positions: **General Board, General Secretary, General Treasurer, National Financial Secretary, and National Board of Trustees**.

The General Board serves as the Executive Branch of COGIC, and the election of its members is clearly the most crucial vote delegates to the General Assembly will have to make. This Presidium is comprised of 12 Bishops, which is headed by the Presiding Bishop. They are responsible for declaring the vision for ministry and the day-to-day operation of the Church. To be eligible to run for the General Board, one has to be a Jurisdictional Prelate.

Bishop Jerry L. Maynard, COGIC's Chief of Staff, is also the Chairman of the International Holy Convocation. Bishop Maynard advised that this special celebration will begin with the convening of the *Solemn Assembly* at 9 a.m. Monday, November 8, in the sanctuary of Historic Mason Temple. The Assembly is designed as a shut-in where the clergy and laity join Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson for a time of fasting, prayer and spiritual reflection.

Bishop Maynard noted that Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson will official declare the opening of the 97th *International Holy Convocation* during the 11 a.m. worship service Tuesday, November 9, at Historic Mason Temple. The time of fasting and prayer will continue until the benediction of the official opening observance.

Following Tuesday's services at Historic Mason Temple activities will be held at the Cook Convention Center and the Pyramid. Attendees will be able to take advantage of approximately 28 sessions that are designed to enhance every aspect of their lives.

The following ministries will be featured during the 97th *International Holy Convocation: Prayer, Morning Manna, Training Institute, Global Missions, Men's, Women's, Youth, Music, Sunshine Band, Purity Class, Sunday School,* and *The Young People Willing Workers (YPWW)*.

The *Morning Manna* sessions have quickly become one of the most anticipated events of the International Holy Convocation. This uplifting service features prayer and teaching by the Presiding Bishop. In his role as Chief Apostle, Bishop G.E. Patterson added this service to the worship agenda to help ensure that the International Holy Convocation maintains its spiritual focus throughout the entire meeting — by giving the delegates an opportunity to see him minister in a pastoral setting.

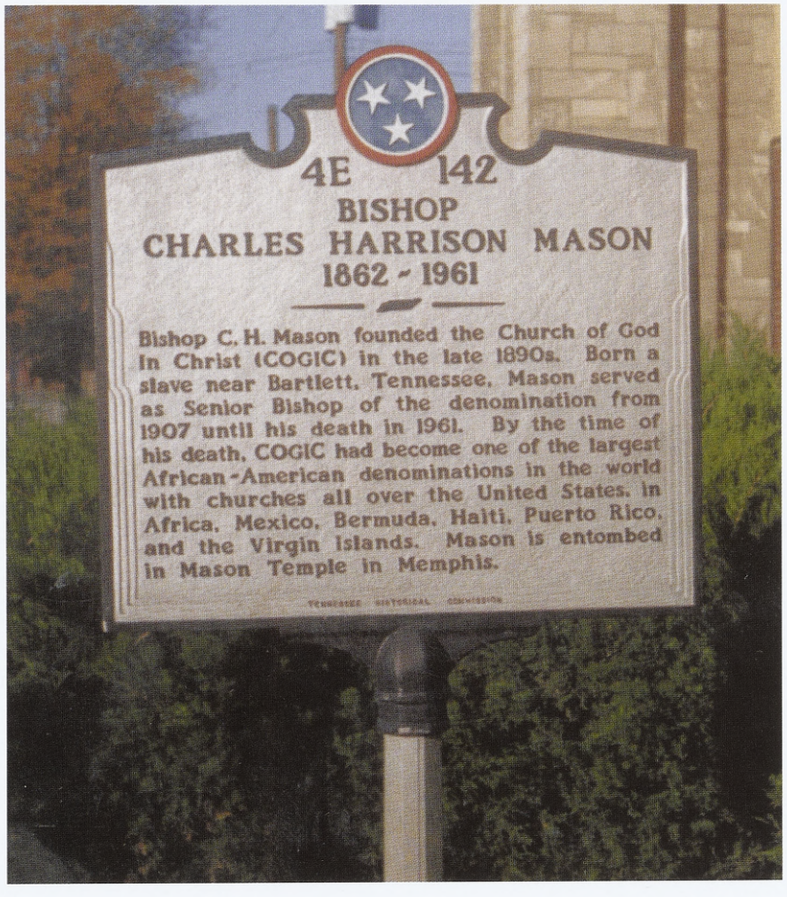
Evangelist Frances Kelley serves as International Prayer Leader for COGIC. This anointed woman of God is a world renowned speaker, prayer warrior and Gospel singer. It only takes one visit to a prayer session led by Evangelist Kelley to discover her commitment and dedication to the *Prayer Ministry*. *The Whole Truth* has received numerous testimonies from saints across the nation telling how their lives have been enriched through the gifted ministry of our International Prayer Leader.

Named in honor of COGIC's Second Senior Bishop, the ***Bishop O.T. Jones Sr. Memorial Institute*** is designed to enhance the spiritual insight for every segment of the denomination's membership. Whether you are a new member who wants to know more about the doctrine, a pastor's wife intent on assisting your spouse in ministry, or a jurisdictional leader who wants to prepare for a national work, there is a class or workshop with you in mind offered by the Institute.

For COGIC, the name Bishop Carlis L. Moody is synonymous with Global Missions. Bishop Moody has served as International President for Home and Foreign Missions since

1975. He is senior pastor at Faith Temple COGIC in Evanston, Illinois. In his role as head of missions, Bishop Moody is responsible for all of the missions work for COGIC both abroad and in the United Sates. He also serves as Jurisdictional Bishop for Germany. COGIC has been actively involved with Global Missions for several decades. Currently, there are COGIC missionaries and pastors in nearly 60 countries including Japan, the Philippines, and England.

Bishop Darrell L. Hines has the distinction of being the first director for the COGIC National Men's Conference. He is the highly successful pastor of Christian Faith Fellowship COGIC in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson's concept for this Conference is for it to be a unique men's ministry that impacts every aspect of their lives. Shortly after his appointment in 2000, Bishop Hines moved forward to design, develop, and implement workshops that would minister to the total man, so the participants could in turn effectively minister to others. This four-part application for ministry is aimed at ministering to men spiritually, physically, socially, and economically.



Mother Willie Mae Rivers became the sixth General Supervisor for the Department of Women in 1997. A native of Goose Creek, South Carolina, Mother Rivers worked her way up the chain of command in her department. In her role as General Supervisor, Mother Rivers has developed the following goals for the Department of Women: **1) Encourage women to have strong prayer lives; 2) Emphasize an appreciation of and knowledge for the history of the International Church Of God In Christ; 3) Revitalize ministries through auxiliaries and bands of the Women's Department;** and **4) Take on the spirit of evangelism**. Mother Rivers is highly respected throughout Christendom for being an anointed prayer warrior, a gifted singer and composer, and an eloquent defender of the COGIC doctrine.

Superintendent Alton Gatlin heads the Sunday School Department for the International Church Of God In Christ. The Louisiana native has implemented a curriculum that is designed to bring the Word of God to life in the lives of every COGIC member who is active in Sunday School. Mother Georgia Lowe serves as the International Field Representative for the Sunday School Department, and she does an outstanding job in her role as ambassador for that area of ministry.

Superintendent Brandon Porter is the President for the International YPWW Department and Evangelist Joyce Rodgers serves as the International Chairlady. This dynamic duo has implemented a number of innovative ministries that are designed to make Bible Study and church attendance exciting for the youth of COGIC.

Evangelist Lytia Howard oversees the Sunshine Band Ministry for COGIC. This gifted woman of God has her hands on the pulse of cutting-edge ministry for those who fall in the age category from toddler to 12-years-old.

Mother Thelma Cotten serves as president of COGIC's Purity Class Department. This radiant church mother has a passion for and commitment to inspiring those young people in the age group of 12 to 17 to embrace the Church's doctrine and to be all that they can be for the Lord.

The multi-talented Professor Iris Stevenson is president of the COGIC International Music Department. Professor Stevenson has continued the rich musical tradition of COGIC established by such Gospel music legends as Mattie Moss Clark – for having the right song for a specific service. Whether it's Holy Communion or Worship and Praise, or the much acclaimed Midnight Musicals, the Saints of COGIC can look forward to being inspired by the International Choir, under the exemplary leadership of Professor Stevenson.

Once again, these ministries along with other special observations will take center stage during the International Holy Convocation. Members of this highly-regarded Holiness-Pentecostal body will travel from around the world to be in attendance.

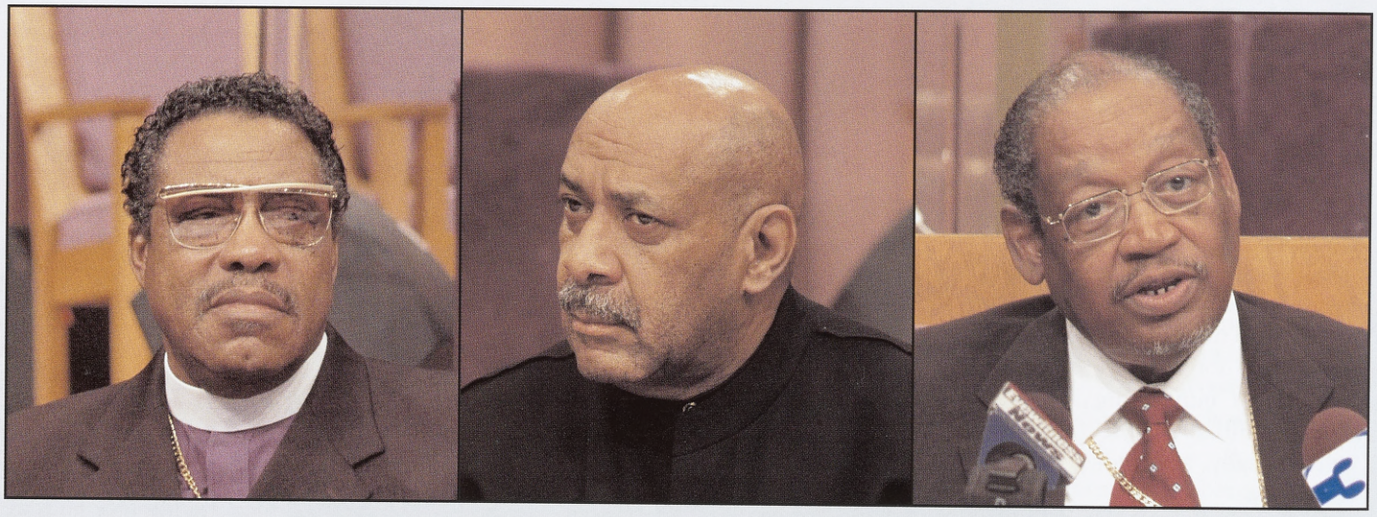
The Saints of COGIC, however, will be unlike the thousands of other visitors who view Memphis as the home of the Blues because of W.C. Handy and Beale Street, or Graceland as a shrine due to the legacy of Elvis Presley. The delegates to the 97th International Holy Convocation will be coming to the final resting place of their founding father, Bishop C.H. Mason, and to an Assembly that will set the spiritual tone for their entire year.

International Holy Convocation to Remain in Memphis Through 2007

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson has announced that the Annual International Holy Convocation of the Church Of God In Christ will continue to convene in Memphis, Tennessee, the denomination's worldwide headquarters through 2007, which marks our 100th Anniversary. Bishop Patterson made the much anticipated announcement concerning the future of the Annual Holy Convocation during a 10 a.m. press conference Thursday, May 27, at the church where he serves as senior pastor, *Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ*.

His decision to keep the Holy Convocation in Memphis for the next three years ended speculation that this annual spiritual retreat would adopt the same format of the other national meetings, which calls for rotating to a new city each year. Over the past several years, numerous complaints have been made by both leadership and laity concerning Memphis' inability to appropriately accommodate the more than 40,000 delegates who attended the Annual International Holy Convocation.

These concerns or issues range from the city not having a large enough convention facility to seat all of the attendees in on setting, to the hotels not offering a discount that would reflect the size and economic impact of the Holy Convocation. In fact, some leaders have accused the management at local hotels of raising the rates during the saints' annual pilgrimage to Memphis.



Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson (right) announces his decision about the future of the International Holy Convocation in Memphis. He is joined by (from left) COGIC's National Treasurer, Bishop Samuel Lowe, and Chief of Staff, Bishop Jerry Maynard.

In his announcement, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson acknowledged that these concerns are indeed valid. He noted that the leadership in other cities had observed the situation with the Holy Convocation in Memphis, and offered very competitive bids for the meeting. Once the word of other cities bidding for the Annual Holy Convocation became breaking news, some public officials in Memphis approached the Presiding Bishop and offered their assistance in keeping the meeting here.

"While two other cities, namely Atlanta and Detroit, have offered lower hotel rates and larger venues, cost free, there has been some movement here in Memphis," Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson said. Our Chief Apostle expressed his gratitude to those city officials who have a genuine desire for our worldwide headquarters to remain the permanent site for the Annual International Holy Convocation.

"I wish to thank Mayor W.W. Herenton, Pierre

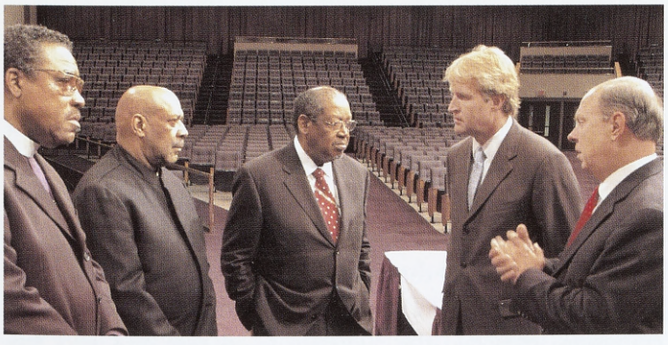


Kevin Kane, President of the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau talks with reporters following Presiding Bishop Patterson's announcement.

Landaiche, General Manager of the Memphis Cook Convention Center and Kevin Kane, President of the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau," he said. "I would also like to extend special thanks to John Oros of the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau and Wayne Tabor, President of the Hotel and Motel Association. These two have worked untiringly to secure some positive movement toward making this announcement possible."

It was learned that Kevin Kane and John Oros of the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau worked closely with Pierre Landaiche of the Memphis Cook Convention Center to ensure the facility would be fully available to COGIC for the International Holy Convocation. Additionally, the officials of the Convention and Visitors Bureau agreed to pay the $60,000 fee for leasing the Cook Convention Center for COGIC. Wayne Tabor moved forward to get more of the local hotel managers to agree to lower their rates to below $100 per day.

Although he realized that these latest offers are not measuring-up to the overall packages presented by Atlanta and Detroit, the Presiding Bishop was encouraged by the efforts to establish a starting-line in a race to resolve the Saints concerns pertaining to their stay in Memphis during the Annual International Holy Convocation.



Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, Chief of Staff, Bishop Jerry Maynard, along with National Treasurer, Bishop Samuel Lowe, meet with Kevin Kane and John Oros of the Memphis Convention and Visitors Bureau.

The Presiding Bishop also stated he realizes the Holy Convocation has outgrown Memphis. He stressed the point that the city does not have the hotel rooms or meeting venues to adequately accommodate the Saints of COGIC.

Kevin Kane echoed our Chief Apostle's sentiments concerning the City of Memphis' lack of meeting and lodging facilities for the membership of COGIC during the Holy Convocation. "Memphis clearly does not have the meeting venues nor the number of hotel rooms that Atlanta and Detroit have," he said.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson made it emphatically clear that he came close to making a decision to move the Holy Convocation. In addition to him being uplifted by the efforts of the public officials to keep the meeting in Memphis, there were two other determining factors, he said. **1) His personal ties to Memphis (he grew up here). 2) The spiritual significance of the Holy Convocation being held in Memphis.**

The Presiding Bishop also noted that he does not plan to seek a third term of office. He then issued a warning that a new administration for COGIC also might signal a different destination for the Annual International Holy Convocation.

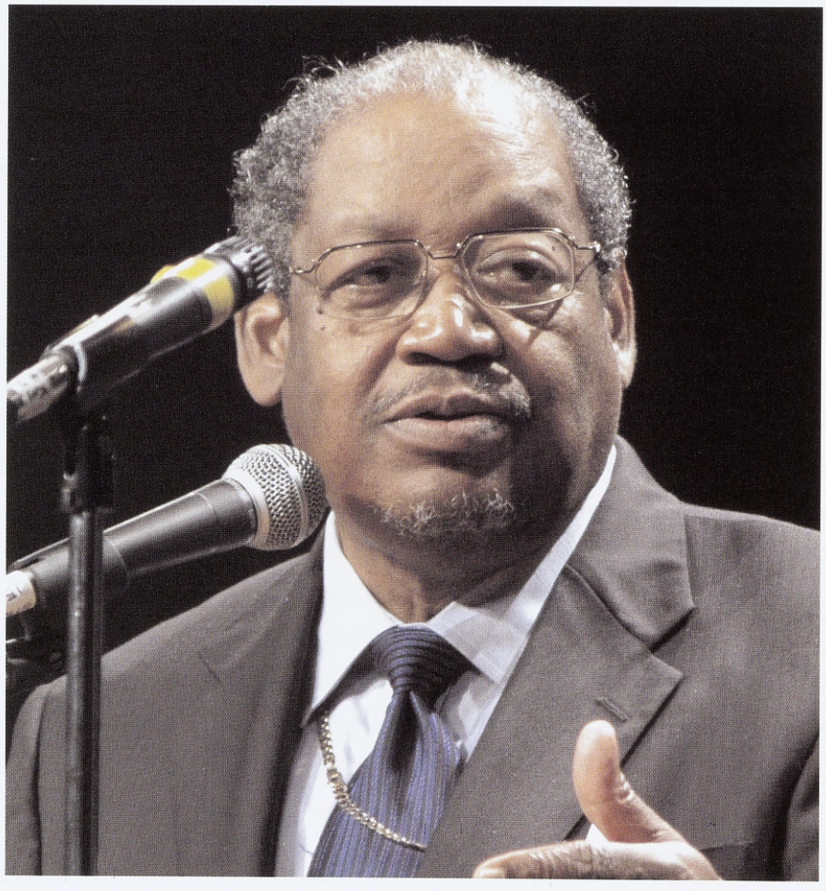
Several of the city officials attending the press conference told *The Whole Truth* they well understand that at this point — Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson is the major force that is keeping the Annual Holy Convocation in Memphis. They commended our Chief Apostle for being an exceptional leader and a loyal Memphian.

To a person, however, the city leaders acknowledged that eventually the various advantages and amenities offered by other cites could lure the Annual Holy Convocation away from Memphis. Such an occurrence would end a tradition that started in 1907.

Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson noted COGIC's rich heritage and roots in Memphis. He added that because the denomination's legacy is so well established in Memphis— this city will remain as our worldwide headquarters.

Legacy of Bishop C.H. Mason Celebrated at Birthday Observance

The rich legacy of Bishop C. H. Mason, founding father of the International Church Of God In Christ and a pioneer in the Holiness-Pentecostal Movement, was celebrated by the saints during a special two-day birthday observance September 7-8. Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson and the General Board were the official sponsors of this august event. Additionally, the saints were blessed to have Bishop Mason's daughters, Mrs. Ruth Lewis, and Mrs. Julia Atkins in attendance.



Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson speaks on the legacy of Founding Father, Bishop C.H. Mason.

Bishop Mason was born September 8, 1866, on the Prior Farm near Memphis, Tennessee. His father and mother, Jerry and Eliza Mason, were members of the Missionary Baptist denomination, having been converted during that bleak period in our nation's history when African-Americans were bound in slavery. He was converted in November 1878, and began his Christian Ministry in 1893, as a Baptist minister. Later, he experienced sanctification through the *Word of God* and preached his first sermon in holiness from II Timothy 2: 1-3, and he took his theme from the third verse: *Thou Therefore Endure Hardness, as a Good Soldier of Jesus Christ.*

In 1897, the name Church Of God In Christ was revealed to Bishop Mason while he was walking along 8th at Gaines in Little Rock, Arkansas. He had played an instrumental role in the founding of the Church of God in Lexington, Mississippi, but felt compelled to coin a name that would reflect the new denomination's commitment to *Entire Sanctification*. The following scripture supported his revelation: I Thessalonians 2:14 – *For ye brethren became followers of the Churches of God which in Judea are in Christ Jesus: For ye have suffered like things of your own countrymen even as they have of the Jews.*

Bishop Mason retained the name Church Of God In Christ after being named Chief Apostle by the First Pentecostal General Assembly. During this 1907 session in Memphis, delegates convened to establish a denomination that would embrace receiving the Baptism in the Holy Ghost, according to Acts 2: 1- 4.

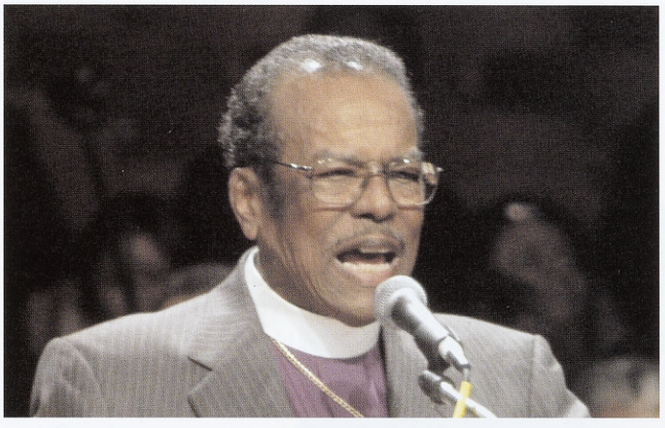
Upon his death on November 17, 1961, Bishop Mason left the Church Of God In Christ a vast heritage as the world's premier Holiness-Pentecostal denomination. Today, countless millions of people are testifying of Salvation, Healing and Deliverance as a direct result of the awesome ministry of Bishop Charles Harrison Mason.

How do you celebrate the birthday of a spiritual legend? For the Saints of the Church Of God In Christ this is done by honoring the man, while giving God the glory and praise for the life and work of His modern day apostle.

Tuesday, September 7, marked the first phase of the special worship celebration in honor of Bishop Mason's birthday. Anticipation for a *High Time in the Lord* could readily be sensed as hundreds of saints filed into Historic Mason Temple. Those seeking to be informed and inspired certainly were not disappointed; for the Lord did move in a mighty way.

The highlight of this inspiring setting occurred when the distinguished Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., one of Bishop Mason's grandsons, preached the audience to its feet. His text was taken from St. John 15:7, and he spoke from the theme: *The Power of Prayer.*

Shortly after 7 p.m., the tone for this moving worship celebration was set by the *Sanctified Sounds* of the Mass Choir. Those anointed voices led the saints in a series of old congregational standards. Praises went up before God to such songs as, *Jesus I Will Never Forget*, *Look Where He Brought Me From*, *Power Lord*, *My Soul Loves Jesus* and *Praise Him*.



Bishop J.O. Patterson, Jr., Chairman of the General Assembly and a grandson of Bishop C.H. Mason, preaches from the theme, ***The Power of Prayer.***

General Board Member, Bishop Roy H. Winbush, did an outstanding job in his role as moderator of the service. He reminded the saints that they were worshipping God in the beauty of holiness, while honoring the life and legacy of Bishop C.H. Mason. We should never forget that the foundation for our tremendous success as a denomination was laid by our founding father, Bishop Winbush said.

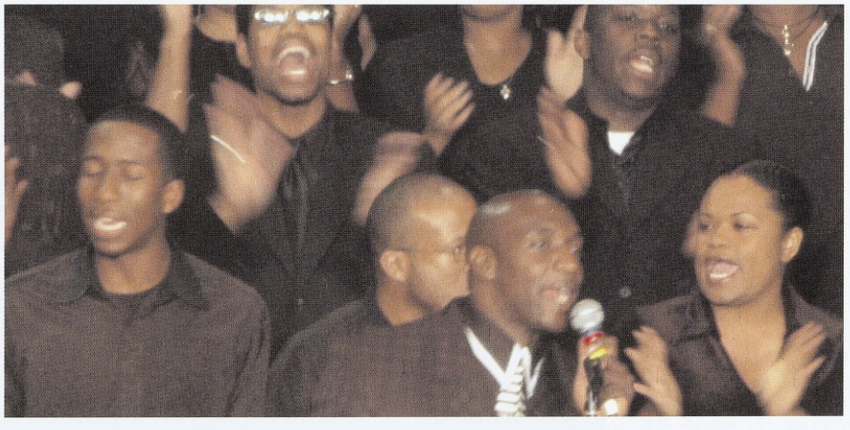
After a dynamic introduction by First Assistant Presiding Bishop C.E. Blake Sr., the audience stood to receive our illustrious leader, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson. In his remarks, the Presiding Bishop noted the anointed and visionary leadership of Bishop C.H. Mason. He recalled how our founding father had a revelation to acquire all of the property in the area where Mason Temple was built. He displayed a radiant smile while reminiscing about the time his father, the late Bishop W.A. Patterson, pastored at St. Paul COGIC in Lexington, Mississippi. St. Paul is known as *The Mother Church*, because it was the first COGIC congregation to be established and pastored by Bishop Mason.

The Presiding Bishop reviewed his initiatives to renovate Mason Temple through fund raising efforts such as the *Wall of* Remembrance and the purchasing of property once owned by the Fowler Homes housing development. He stated that these were two prime examples of his commitment to making the vision that Bishop Mason had for COGIC to become a reality.

Later, while introducing Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr., the Presiding Bishop cited the key note speaker's impressive contributions to society. He noted how Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr. serves with distinction as Chairman of the General Assembly. Then, he paid tribute to the Chairman's achievements in the public service arena. The Presiding Bishop observed that while serving as Chairman of the Memphis City Council, Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr. served as Mayor of the City of Memphis for 28 days following the resignation of the elected mayor. Thus, Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr. has the distinction of being the first African-American to serve as Mayor of Memphis. And, yes, he is the son of the first elected Presiding Bishop, J.O. Patterson Sr., and a grandson of founding father, Bishop C.H. Mason.

In his message, Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr. recalled how his grandfather would start each day with a time of prayer, starting around 6 a.m. He admonished the audience to establish and maintain a daily prayer life. Then, he warned that one's prayer life will not be effective unless the prayers are offered with a clean heart and pure mind – to God's glory.

He declared that the *Power of Prayer* is more potent than hydro electric power, atomic power, nuclear power, rocket power, and missile power. "Pray until you pray through," he exclaimed. "Pray until you can reach out and touch the hem of Jesus' garment....Oh Bless His name....Bless His name Hallelujah!"



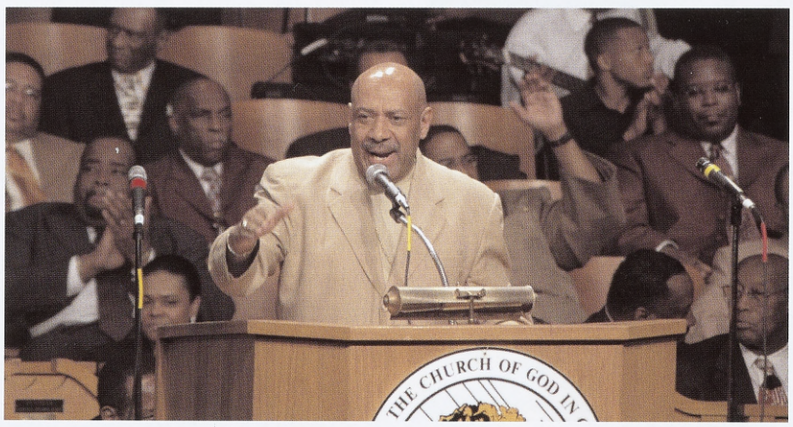
Our International Mass Choir gives God the Glory!

Following Bishop J.O. Patterson's powerful presentation, the Presiding Bishop observed that this was the first time that many in the audience had seen him in his role as an anointed COGIC Bishop – and not as the distinguished Chairman of the General Assembly. He closed the service by having the assembly to form in circles, join hands and uphold each other in intercessory prayer. There was a mighty move of the Holy Ghost as the saints offered up prayers to the *Glory of God.*

More than 500 saints gathered at Historic Mason Temple at 7:45 a.m., Wednesday, September 8, for a pilgrimage to the *Mother Land* of the Church Of God In Christ, Lexington, Mississippi. Their destination was Saints Academy, which sits majestically on a 400 acre campus off Highway 17 South.

Indicative of his generous nature, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson provided six top-of-the-line tour buses to transport the saints, cost free. Once arriving at the birthplace of COGIC, the delegation was escorted to the multi-purpose Debra Mason Patterson Hall, where they were given an official welcome by the Presidium and the Saints Academy's staff.

Additionally, an update was given concerning the current status of Saints Academy. Currently Saints Academy offers a K-5th Grade curriculum. In his remarks, Elder Larry Weems, Administrative Superintendent of Lexington Properties, advised that the students at Saints Academy scored two grades higher on the state's achievement tests than those students in the local county schools.



Chief of Staff, Bishop Jerry Maynard, gives thanks to God for the life and many contributions of Bishop C.H. Mason. He also exhorts the saints to honor Bishop Mason's legacy by giving in support of ministry.



The audience gives praises unto God, for the rich heritage established by our Founding Father, Bishop C. H. Mason.

Saints Academy was established by Bishop Mason in 1915. He appointed Miss Pinkie Duncan to teach classes in the basement of St. Paul COGIC under the auspices of the state church. In 1926, Dr. Arenia C. Mallory arrived in Lexington; and she soon received a vision of what the school could become. With the full support of Bishop Mason, Dr. Mallory founded Saints College. Near the end of her administration, Dr. Mallory had established a multi-million dollar campus. She left a 38-year legacy that includes state accreditation, 15 years of support from the Federal Government, and a heritage for having a commitment to excellence.

Dr. Mallory served as President until 1976 and President Emeritus until her death in May of 1977. Dr. Donald Wheelock served as President from 1976 to 1983 when the school was closed. Due to the vision of our late Presiding Bishop Louis Henry Ford, the school was reopened in September of 1993.

In his remarks, Presiding Bishop Patterson noted that during his first term it was imperative for him to focus a great deal of his attention on our properties and departments in Headquarters. He vowed to give more attention to Saints Academy during his second term. Second Assistant Presiding Bishop J.N. Haynes recalled his days as a student at Saints Academy, which was known as Saints Industrial and Literary School when he attended. Bishop Haynes said his time at the school laid the foundation for him to go farther in the educational arena.

Bishop Charles Ford, Chairman of the National Board of Trustees, advised the delegation how that body is maintaining the infrastructure of Saints Academy. He recalled that members of the General Board had contributed $60,000 to meet a specific need there. The articulate chairman also reported that 15 percent of COGIC's National Budget is spent in support of education.

Following the session in Debra Mason Patterson Hall, the delegation was given guided tours of the campus. The activities culminated with a barbecue chicken luncheon with all of the trimmings. Then, it was time to board the buses and return to Historic Mason Temple to hear an anointed Word of God from our Chief Apostle.

The Wednesday night service of September 8 was the closing worship celebration of what marked the138th anniversary of Bishop Charles Harrison Mason's birth. The Mass Choir opened the honor observance with the praise, *Bless The Lord, Oh My Soul.*

Bishop L.T. Walker, Chairman of the Board of Bishops, and Prelate of Arkansas' First Jurisdiction, rendered greetings. In his remarks Bishop Walker commended Presiding Bishop Patterson for his exemplary leadership, and pledged the full support of the Board of Bishops.

At this point, Bishop Walker asked for Bishop D.L. Lindsey to come forward with a special recognition. In his remarks, Bishop Lindsey advised that Bishop Mason had been inducted into the Arkansas Black Hall of Fame, posthumously for his contributions to Christendom. Bishop Lindsey noted that it was in the State of Arkansas that Bishop Mason received the revelation for the name Church Of God In Christ.

Later, internationally acclaimed Gospel artist, Dr. Rance Allen, rocked the house with his soul-stirring, *Jesus Is A Miracle Worker*. The gifted singer, preacher, and evangelist is a spiritual son of the Presiding Bishop.

Prior to announcing his text, the Presiding Bishop gave a moving rendition of an old COGIC standard, *My Record Will Be There*. He was accompanied by the Mass Choir, which featured an impressive guitar solo by Brother Walter Dunlap. Presiding Bishop Patterson said that he had recently recorded more than 40 old COGIC standards with his Temple of Deliverance COGIC Choir. Included in the recording are such selections as *I I'm Leaving All To Follow Jesus* and *I'll Take Jesus For Mine*.

The Presiding Bishop noted the importance that the old standards and congregational songs played in developing the culture of our Church. "If we want to see the greatness of who we are…we are going to have to recapture our heritage," he declared.

Our Chief Apostle, The Most Reverend G.E. Patterson, then delivered an eloquent and powerful message. The Presiding Bishop's text was Numbers 14: 1-9, and he spoke from the theme – *Possessing The Land.*

In his sermon, Presiding Bishop Patterson clearly demonstrated why he is highly-respected both as a theologian and an anointed preacher. He noted the significance of land as it relates to wealth in our society. He stated that how the ongoing turmoil in the Middle East is related to land. He traced the roots of the problem to the legacy of Abraham.

The Presiding Bishop noted the *Seven-Fold Blessing* that God promised to Abram in Genesis Chapter 12. 1) *I will make thee a great nation.* 2) *I will bless thee.* 3) *And make thou name great.* 4) *Thou shalt be a blessing.* 5) *I will bless them that bless thee.* 6) *And curse him that curseth thee.* 7) *And in thee shall all families of the earth be blessed.*

Yes, the promise was given to Abram at the age of 75, and his wife, Sarai, who was 65 when God gave the directive to leave Haran, the Presiding Bishop instructed. He then recalled how Sarai doubted that she could bear Abram, a child. So, she decided to "be generous" and have Abram to have her Egyptian maid, Hagar – who would conceive and bare Ishmael.

Later, Sarah birthed Isaac, who was the intended heir of the promise. And, today, the controversy in the Middle East revolves around the dispute over the *Promised Land* between the descendents of Isaac and Ishmael, the Presiding Bishop said.

"The blessing that God promised His people was land," he continued. "No matter how spiritual you are…you still have to deal with natural necessity."

The Presiding Bishop then recalled how that when Bishop Mason finished overseeing the construction of Mason Temple in 1945; it was the largest facility of any kind that was owned by African-Americans. He noted the many miracles that were performed by God through Bishop Mason and the mighty outpouring of the Holy Ghost.

He added how Bishop Mason was convinced that all of land in the immediate area should be purchased. In fact, Bishop Mason sang the song *Take, Take, Take: Take The Land.* Those around him, however, thought the site for Mason Temple was ample land. And, when they tired to purchase additional property, they learned it had been purchased by the city to build the Fowler Homes Housing Development.

Decades later, under the visionary leadership of Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, that land has been purchased. Plans have been developed to extend Headquarters to Crump Boulevard. In fact, it was reported by the Presiding Bishop that all the land from Walker Avenue to Crump Boulevard, is now owned by the Church Of God In Christ.

He admonished the saints to hold true to their rich heritage in the Church Of God In Christ, and not to look to other sources or denominations for spiritual or financial blessings. He also urged them not to be guilty of the same thing that the Children of Israel were in the text. In spite of the praise report from Joshua and Caleb, they murmured against Moses, God's appointed leader, and expressed a desire to have died in Egypt or the wilderness. He noted an observation by his uncle, the late, Bishop J.O. Patterson Sr. – that the people measured the giants against themselves, rather than measuring them against God.

Our Chief Apostle urged the saints not to look back to Egypt, but to move forward and possess the land. He noted that when you move forward to go to the other side, you might encounter storms, but God has given us the victory over the storm through Jesus Christ.

"Nothing can destroy you when God has opened up the way," he said. "The promise for this Church is not behind us, it is before us."

A look at the QUADRENNIAL ELECTIONS

Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr. made history in November, 1968 when he was elected the First Presiding Bishop of the Church Of God In Christ by the General Assembly; when the body convened at the end of the 61st Holy Convocation in Memphis, Tennessee. Bishop Patterson served on the Executive Commission and as General Secretary before ascending to the position of Chief Apostle of the denomination and President of the civil corporation. This milestone marked the advent of the Quadrennial Elections in our beloved COGIC.

Electing our Presidium and other National officers grew out of the need to have a smooth transition after the demise of the Senior Official. Following the death of our founding father, and First Senior Bishop, Bishop C.H. Mason, on November 17, 1961, COGIC went through a period of uncertainty concerning who had the mandate to lead the denomination.

Bishop O.T. Jones, Sr. was appointed to the Executive Commission by Bishop Mason on October 12, 1955. He joined Bishop A.B. McEwen and three other Bishops who had been appointed by the First Senior Bishop in 1951 and 1952. During the meeting of the General Assembly on December 7, 1962, Bishop Jones was given the title of Senior Bishop in honor of his decades of loyal service to the Church Of God In Christ. It was also moved by the General Assembly that Bishop McEwen would serve as Chairman of the Executive Commission. A motion also prevailed that stated details of how Bishop Jones would be recognized with his honorary title as Senior Bishop serving as a member of the Executive Commission, would be worked out at the 1963 April Call Meeting of the General Assembly.

Both of the distinguished bishops McEwen and Jones did indeed serve the Church Of God In Christ with distinction. The matter, however, of who had the mandate of the Chief Apostle and the rightful successor to Bishop C.H. Mason was not resolved until November 1968, when the Quadrennial Elections ushered in the era of Presiding Bishop.

Quadrennial Kudos:

The Whole Truth salutes the Presidium for four years of exemplary leadership.

Congratulations for a job well done to:

Bishop G.E. Patterson
Presiding Bishop

Bishop C.E. Blake, Sr.
First Assistant Presiding Bishop

Bishop J.N. Haynes
Second Assistant Presiding Bishop

Bishop W.W. Hamilton
Secretary

Bishop R.L. H. Winbush
Assistant Secretary

Bishop P.A. Brooks

Bishop C.D. Owens

Bishop S.L. Green

Bishop L. Anderson

Bishop L. E. Willis

Bishop G. McKinney

Bishop N. Wells

CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

QUADRENNIAL ELECTION

November 16, 2004

Office of the

General Board

Vote for Twelve (12)

Anderson, Cornelius E.
Anderson, Leroy R.
Blake, Charles E.
Bogan, Sr., Walter Emile
Bonner, William Haven
Booker, Ocie
Brooks, Phillip A.
Cohen, Jacob
Green, Sr., Samuel L.
Hamilton, W. Wilbert
Haynes, J. Neaul
Houston, David R.
Johnson, Martin Luther
Lawson, Juan O.
Lewis, Sr., Harvey L.
Macklin, Jerry Wayne
Marshall, Cody V.
Mckinney, Jr., George D.
Owens, Chandler David
Patterson, Gilbert Earl
Quick, Norman N.
Quillen, Jr., Howard E.
Smith, Jr., Felton M.
Wells, Jr., Nathaniel
Williams, Sr., George A.
Winbush, Roy L.H.
Wright, Earl J.

Office of the

National Treasurer

Vote For One (1)
Burns, Darin
Lowe, Sr., Samuel L.

Office of the

Financial Secretary

Vote For One (1)
Mosby, William Edward
White, Frank O.

Office of the

General Secretary

Hall, Alfred Z.

Office of the

Trustee Board

Vote for Fifteen (15)
Bates, Gerald Joseph
Cahoon, William Theophilus
Clemons, Burton Delano
Conner, E. Charles
Curtis, Frances A.
Dean, Robert
Dixon Roy
Ferrell, Eugene
Ford, Charles Mason
Frye, Lemon T.
Green, Sr. Dwight L.
Henderson, II, Percy W.
Hogen-Williams, Carole
Ivery, Sr., Jerry L.
Johnson, Sr., Jerry E.
Jones, Walter B.
Law, Sylvia H.
Linzy, Mildred
Macklin-Lowe, Georgia
McMurray, Dennis J.
Owens, Sr., William G.
Patterson, Sr., Charles H. Mason
Paul, Sam Ram
Perry, Mark I.
Porter, Brandon B.
Shepherd, Josephus
Stephens, III, William
Strickland, Sr., Jerome
Veal, Zeno
Walls, Sr., Dwight E.
Wells, Dickerson L.S.
West, Jerry E.
White, Frank Anthone
Williams, Carl
Winbush, Sr., McLendon

COGIC Cares...
A LOOK AT COGIC CHARITIES

By: John Wayne Penton, Sr., Chairman.COGIC Charities,

Yes, we care! The Church Of God In Christ has always cared for the needy. Under the leadership of Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, however, our Church has implemented a more proactive strategy that is designed to prepare the membership to meet the challenges of serving those who are facing various needs related to natural disaster and communities encountering a crisis in the 21st century.

In times past, it was the COGIC pastor who would provide for members of his congregation during their time of need. The Pastor was usually the only resource the members could come to for relief. After talking to them about their particular need, he would withdraw funds from the church's treasury.

The treasury consisted of money from the members of the congregation who contributed via tithes and offerings. Although the actions of the pastor were noble, the church at large was not credited for this compassionate deed. The same is true for a number of COGIC congregations that provide funds for various humanitarian needs that range from reaching out to disaster victims, supporting foreign missions to providing scholarships for deserving college students.

Therefore, many members of the Church Of God In Christ and communities across the nation are not aware of what our denomination is doing in benevolence. Consequently, the question has been asked: "What is the Church Of God In Christ doing to help those unbelievers who are in crisis?"



Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson

Presiding Bishop Patterson has responded to this concern regarding having an active humanitarian arm for the National Church by establishing COGIC Charities. Under the visionary and insightful leadership of our Presiding Bishop, COGIC Charities is being structured to address the critical issue of distributing resources to hurting people.

Yes, our distinguished leader has encouraged the National Church to take heed to Solomon's admonishment in **Proverbs 3: 27-28 - *Withhold not good from them to whom it is due, when it is in the power of thine hand to do it. Say not unto thy neighbor, Go, and come again, and tomorrow I will give; when thou hast it by thee.***

It was during the General Council of Pastors and Elders Conference in August, that Presiding Bishop Patterson via COGIC Charities reached out and brought relief to the victims of Hurricane Charley in Florida. Bishop Patterson presented a check for $10,000 and more than 20,000 gallons of bottled water. The people needed water! We gave water. In fact, the water was a surplus from COGIC Charities aid to the victims of *Hurricane Elvis* that devastated the City of Memphis in July of 2003.

In his remarks at the General Council of Pastors and Elders Conference, which was held in Orlando, Florida, the Presiding Bishop noted: "It would have been criminal if the Church Of God In Christ had not responded to the needs of the people in Florida; and as we monitor the hurricanes that are continuing to hit Florida we will do more."

We all should concur with our Presiding Bishop who says it is obvious that God wants the church to be a caring and sharing community. Yes, we are to praise the Lord and worship Him for being the God of our Salvation, but we must let the world know we love God by our acts of benevolence.

The Third Annual COGIC Charities Banquet was held in Memphis, Tennessee on April 12, at historic Peabody Hotel. Famed attorney and precher, Dr. Benjamin Hooks gave the keynote address for this most worthy fundraiser. In his



Mother Willie Mae Rivers | Sylvia Law | Laurence Plummer

John W. Penton | Valarie Daniel-Carter | Dorothy Brown | Alexander Hurt



address, Dr. Hooks commended us on our efforts while issuing the challenge not to forget those who are facing, *Midnight*.

I was asked to give the *Occasion Overview*. In my speech, I said, "The Church Of God In Christ is alive and well and we should applaud the vision that God has given to the leadership of our church. We should applaud, when money is raised to help those who are in need. We should applaud when testimonies from across the nation and around the world are given by men and women saying that, 'I was hungry and COGIC Charities fed me...'"

Presiding Bishop Patterson is dedicated to the cause of ensuring that COGIC Charities is effective in its role as the benevolent arm of the National Church. He has appointed the following persons to serve with him on the COGIC Charities Board of Directors:

Mother Willie Mae Rivers, John W. Penton, Sylvia Law, Laurence Plummer, Valarie Daniel-Carter, Dorothy Brown, and Alexander Hurt. Our job as board members is to carry out the mandates of the leadership of COGIC.

The following is the stated mission of COGIC Charities:

Our mission is to support and strengthen the programs consistent with the charitable purpose of the Church Of God In Christ, Inc. To respond to natural disaster; and provide relief services for people and communities in crisis throughout the world; to promote self-sufficiency within communities including, but not limited to community development, emergency assistance, housing, and healthcare; to acquire real and personal property as required to make available affordable housing and other services for low income families, children, the elderly, and the physically challenged.

The mission of the board is broad in scope, but the members have resolved that they are willing to work diligently to serve COGIC with distinction. In fact, we worked closely with the American Heart Association (AHA) of Shelby County Tennessee to help COGIC enter a partnership with that organization.

Board member Elder Laurence Plummer was instrumental in bringing the AHA's Search Your Heart initiative to my attention. This program is the association's faith-based health initiative emphasizing the need for positive lifestyle changes in diet, exercise and having regular physical checkups,and it is all presented within a spiritual environment

After learning that the program was designed to reach the most at-risk population for heart attacks and strokes, Elder Plummer arranged a meeting between the COGIC Charities Board and the AHA. Representatives from that organization included Vice President of Field Services Russell Ellis, Health Initiativies Manager Donna Crawford, and Communications Director Stan Gilbert.

The partnership will establish 75 new Search Your Heart programs in cities throughout the nation by placing kits and training facilitators in local COGIC churches. In addition, our participation will mean increased health screenings at our National Meetings, while providing AHA-trained healthcare speakers for local programs as needed.

The AHA has a goal to drastically reduce the prevalence of strokes, caused in part by hypertension, which has a significantly higher incidence among African Americans. Research funded by the AHA has proven that until there are clear answers; all Americans can take advantage of the many steps available that are directed to the reduction of being at risk. These include eating a heart-healthy diet, exercising and warching your blood pressure.

Yes, COGIC cares! COGIC Charities is carrying the banner of our commitment to minister to the needs of those who are facing a crisis. We have a charge for all COGIC members to, *Show that you are too*, by sending your check or money order in care of:

COGIC CHARITIES P.O. BOX 38 MEMPHIS, TN 38101

PRESERVING THE LEGACY OF BISHOP CHARLES HARRISON MASON

Part Three of a Three-part Series about our Founding Father

The Author for this segment:
Dr. James B. Boyer

Because the great history of the Church Of God In Christ is so connected with its leadership, the legacy of Bishop Charles Harrison Mason deserves to be perpetuated as part of transmitting that history. Those of us who have spent a lifetime in the Church Of God In Christ have been hearing about Bishop Mason from childhood. New generations, however, did not have the privilege of being impacted by his awesome ministry and this discourse is designed to share part of that insight.

To be sure, a number of writers have attempted to document the impact and ministry of Bishop Mason – but many of these were **NOT** members of the Church Of God In Christ and they often failed to capture the essence of his prayer ministry and the excitement of his comprehensive teaching ministry.

The Power of Oral History (Especially Among African Americans)

While some historians choose to reject any historical information not supported by original documents, our position is that God gave Black people a marvelous gift of oratory. This gift has allowed the church's history and legacy to be passed on to new generations. It will be impossible to find documentation of much of our history – but all of us who were privileged to be in the presence of Bishop Mason at least once, will never forget the experience.

At age 10, I was taken to a service in Philadelphia, PA, where Bishop Mason was to minister. It was held at the Garden of Prayer COGIC where Mother Dabney was well-known as a prayer warrior. We went early to get a good seat – but Bishop Mason did not appear until nearly 11:00 p.m. No one left that service due to his lateness. As a child, however, I remember that there was not a code of ceremonial form which we often adhere to now. It had been announced that he would be there – but no one was asked to stand and wait until he mounted the pulpit. Yes, the leadership and membership were glad to see Bishop Mason, but he insisted that the service continue.



Dr. James B. Boyer

Within five minutes, however, they gave him charge of the service and he simply called for a "*Prayer Line.*" It seems that the whole church got in the prayer line and he began praying for people. I remember he wore a brown suit with a bow tie. I don't remember how long the prayer lasted but Bishop Mason had been known to pray for four and five hours at a time.

Additionally, I can recall that people eliminated their walking sticks—and one testimony impacted me greatly. A woman had lost her mind and had wondered around Philadelphia for three days—but after the prayer, she was totally competent. I have never seen a service quite like that one. Bishop Mason's ministry was laced with prayer at every level.

To my knowledge, no one wrote an article about that service – but those of us who were there remember it vividly. This is why I support oral history reports so strongly. Of course today, universities are now offering degrees in oral history—but many people still chose to reject the wonderful accounts of God's power at work.

From a 1988 Presentation by a Daughter of Bishop C.H. Mason;

Mother Lelia Mason Byas

For a time, the Church has promoted the development of the COGIC Historical Museum and Fine Arts Program – which presented oral accounts of various parts of our Church History. In November, 1988, Bishop Mason's third child, Mother Lelia Mason Byas presented a powerful historical account of her father's life. The following are some of the highlights of Mother Byas' presentation:

(1) Her father was the most unusually gifted prayer warrior she's ever known. He would be in prayer each morning (fully dressed) in his home from 7:00 a.m. until 9:00 a.m. He was the father of eight children and their mother taught them never to interrupt their father's prayer time.

(2) He was born on Pryor Farm about 15 miles from Memphis, Tennessee. He would always say that he was born two years before slavery ended. His parents were Jerry and Eliza Mason. Following slavery, in some rural areas Black men were challenged regarding slavery and asked if they believed in it. If they didn't believe in slavery, they were executed. Jerry Mason (his father) spoke up and declared his opposition and was executed.

(3) The remaining parent then had to work the fields. He was the youngest child of Eliza Mason, and she would sit him on the front porch of their slave house and tell him to wait for her return. He so regretted seeing his mother having to plow—even at age four or five that he said within himself, he would one day plow for his mother and have her sit on the porch until his return.

(4) At about age nine, little Charles took the plow and replaced his mother in the fields. He was a blessed child from the beginning. Whatever he did, he surpassed the others in his accomplishments: if it was picking cotton, he could pick more than the other children. If it was fishing, he caught more fish than the others. If it was chopping wood, he chopped more than the others.

His Prayer Ministry Started as a Child:

He was always committed to knowing the more of God, having more power and growing closer. At around age 14, he contracted yellow fever and was bedridden for some time. But he prayed that God would heal him. One Sunday morning, he was able to get up. He then put on his clothes and went running in the fields praising and magnifying God. Yes, he gave God the Glory for healing him. Many people died in the yellow fever epidemic. He was never in the hospital until he was in his 80's. Doctors then told the family that medically – he seemed 20 years younger than his chronological age.

(5) During his ministry, he prayed for people with all kinds of diseases and afflictions – but never contracted these diseases from those for whom he prayed. During this time, those diseases included tuberculosis, yellow fever and others.

Bishop C.H. Mason's Personal Life:

He was married as a young man because he felt a young preacher should have a wife and establish a home. His first wife, however, soon made it emphatically clear that she did **NOT** want to be a minister's wife. Her unfaithful behavior led to a separation. The Church taught that one should not remarry – as long as the original spouse was alive. Therefore, Bishop Mason remained single (and in the ministry) some 12 years before his first wife's demise.

Then, he married Leila who became the mother of all of his children. On the grounds of Historic Mason Temple at our Worldwide Headquarters in Memphis, TN, there is a building named in her honor, the Leila Mason Hall.

After her demise, he married Mother Elsie Mason (who at this writing) is still alive in Memphis. The COGIC Women's Department (under the leadership of Mother Lillian Brooks Coffey) actually had the house built in which Bishop and Mother Mason resided. It is on Mason Street next to the Leila Mason Hall on our Headquarters campus.

The Legacy of a Name:

Around 1955, the City of Memphis renamed 5th Street to become Mason Avenue in honor of Bishop Charles Harrison Mason. Today, our International Headquarters address is 930 Mason Street, Memphis, Tennessee. Hundreds of Churches have been named Mason Temple or Mason Chapel in honor of the great legacy of Bishop Charles Harrison Mason. Parenthetically, it should be mentioned that the *national press* often mentioned that *civil rights* legend, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. last speech, *I've Been to The Mountain Top*, was given at our National Church Headquarters – but called it Masonic Temple. The correct notation is Historic Mason Temple, the Worldwide Headquarters for the International Church Of God In Christ.

It has been my privilege to serve as District Superintendent of the Charles Harrison Mason District in my Jurisdiction since 1998. The perpetuation of the **NAME** of this great warrior for Christ can never be adequate. So many historical books, films, and documents are being produced today that mention the great contributions of the ministry of Bishop Charles Harrison Mason. We regard him as the **Founding Father** of the Church Of God In Christ – worldwide. There are many persons living today whose lives were

touched by this great man. Historians, film makers, documentarians, academics and Sunday School teachers should always look for avenues through which this great legacy can be transmitted. ***We must preserve our own history and legacy. Teach new generations to be proud descendants of this Holy Ghost tradition. Never underestimate the power of prayer and the study of God's word.***

Bishop C.H. Mason and The Holy Ghost

The young C.H. Mason was baptized by his older brother, I.S. Nelson (a Baptist preacher) at a time when many people referred to Baptist church participants as *"devout Baptists."* His mother, Eliza Mason, had great influence on his learning the Bible, understanding God's awesome power and developing a religious commitment. Remember, his father was executed when young Charles Mason was around three years of age – so his mother was the chief influence in his life.

With Charles Price Jones and D.J. Young, he studied the Word of God intensely. They had heard about a Revival in Los Angeles – by this time being conducted by Elder Seymour, and resolved that they would attend. Before we discuss their journey to Los Angeles for this renowned Pentecostal Revival, let's first take a look at the men and their ministries.

Charles Price Jones was musically gifted to write songs – and one of his most acclaimed songs is, *I'm Happy With Jesus Alone*. D.J. Young was the first COGIC Bishop or Overseer for the State of Kansas. Additionally, he became the first publisher of Sunday School Literature for the Church. His family continued to publish until the COGIC Publishing House was established around 1972. Some recorded accounts indicate that an Elder Jeter was among those going to the Los Angeles Revival as well.

Bishop Charles Harrison Mason received the Baptism of the Holy Ghost while at the Los Angeles Revival – now remembered as the Azusa Street Revival. His experience with the Holy Ghost caused him to *Dance in the Spirit* and to *Speak In Other Tongues*. Upon their return to the Mid-South area (Tennessee, Mississippi, and Arkansas), they were denounced by their brethren whom they had started a work with in Lexington, MS, and by other Protestants because of this Holy Ghost experience.

Bishop Mason's Stronger Resolve to Promote the Holy Ghost

These experiences caused Bishop Mason to exhibit an even greater desire and commitment to the cause of preaching about the Holy Ghost, and spreading the word about Christ's call to be empowered by this same Holy Ghost — in order to be an effective witness for Him. Our Founding Father taught COGIC that the Holy Ghost is for you, your children, and all who would come into the greater knowledge of God. At this time, it should be remembered that many Christians did not know about the Holy Ghost. They had experienced *Conversion*, but not the *Power of the Holy Ghost*.

C.H. Mason taught about sanctification so strongly that we were called, *The Sanctified Folks*. Our churches were known as *Sanctified Churches*. His rallying cry was for the people of God to find out who God is – and then find out who we are in God. The Holy Ghost allows one to know the divine, wonder-working power of God. It ushers in the *Gifts of the Spirit*.

Even today, so many members of COGIC exhibit gifts and talents without formal training – and that is because of the awesome power of God and the Holy Ghost. Many of us today (the grandchildren and great grandchildren of early pioneer COGIC saints) were privileged to attend formal schooling, college and even graduate and professional schools. Bishop Mason attended college in Arkansas, but taught us not to depend on traditional formal training without the influence and direction of the Holy Ghost.

Our Founding Father stressed the following point in his teaching on Holiness: ***Never Underestimate the Holy Ghost***. Yes, we should never eliminate the role, power and impact of the Holy Ghost in COGIC endeavors whether it be schools, colleges, publishing enterprises, museums, businesses, or other efforts. We should teach the Holy Ghost as an essential ingredient in being all that God would have us to be. Its impact will keep you humble and disrobe all impurities from our lives.

Bishop C.H. Mason taught that there's *More of God to be experienced*. COGIC should never forget such a legacy from a man who devoted his entire life to seeking the more of Jesus – the more of the Holy Ghost and sharing the significance of that spiritual growth with others. He preached on street corners, on flatbeds of trucks and from home-made- pulpits.

A true spiritual legend, Bishop Mason took advantage of every opportunity to allow the Holy Ghost to work in and through every individual in worship. It was his sincere desire that COGIC would always operate in the awesome power of the Holy Ghost. We should never let go of such a legacy.

Dr. James Boyer *is the founding pastor of Fellowship Temple COGIC in Manhattan, Kansas. A distinguished educator, Dr. Boyer served as Professor of Curriculum and American Ethnic Studies at Kansas State University for more than three decades. He is a member of the COGIC Scholars Fellowship.*

COGIC Unites with Assemblies of God to Expand Urban Missions Bible College



akland, CA – The Church Of God In Christ and the Assemblies of God, the world's two largest Holiness-Pentecostal denominations have entered a partnership in support of the School of Urban Missions (SUM). For the first time ever, the two culturally diverse denominations have a unified vision. They officially celebrated the initiative on Saturday, August 21, with the dedication of the new SUM campus at 735 105th Avenue in Oakland. The state-of-the-art facility was built at a cost of more than seven million dollars.

Bishop W.W. Hamilton, Secretary of COGIC's General Board, and Rev. Charles Crabtree, Assistant General Superintendent of the Assemblies of God, were the keynote speakers. The historic event also included special music, testimonies from former and current students and professors, a delicious meal of New Orleans Cajun gumbo, and a guided tour of the campus.

Established by the Assemblies of God, SUM is a Bible College that equips indigenous leaders from America's urban communities by offering an affordable theological education, while combining academic instruction with practical hands on ministry. This unique Bible College is designed to empower these leaders to be instruments of change in their given communities. Its stated mission is: *Changed lives, indigenous leaders, and leaders that produce change.*

Rev. Dave Cole, Assistant Superintendent of the Northwest Ministry Network of the Assemblies of God, talked with *The Whole Truth* about the innovative partnership. "This merger has been a long time coming, and now that it is finally here we are anxious to see the enormous benefits that will occur," he said. "Many of the students we will be training have come from diverse backgrounds within urban areas, which only makes our mission that much easier to accomplish. When two great denominations unite for the sole purpose of winning souls by spreading the love of Christ, no one loses."

Officials from the Assemblies of God explained that plans of this "unified vision" calls for the two denominations to expand their current resources, increase dynamic educators, and to enhance established campuses with opportunities for growth. Additionally, they expressed excitement about moving forward with a plan to unite leadership that will result in positive effects for students training to become ministers in urban communities.

The School of Urban Missions may be reached at (510) 567-6174 or through its website at:

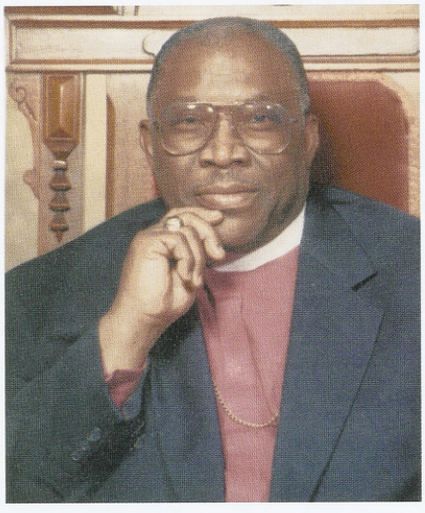
www.sumonline.org

Virginia's First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction Dedicates New State Headquarters:

The Four Million Dollar Complex Evolved from the Vision of Jurisdictional Prelate

Bishop Ted Thomas, Sr.

Portsmouth, Virginia — More than 1,200 people filled the sanctuary of New Community Temple COGIC earlier this year to witness the grand opening and dedication service of this imposing facility, which serves as the new state headquarters for the First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Virginia. The audience listened attentively as General Board members Bishop S.L. Green and Bishop L.E. Willis led the special worship observance.



Bishop Ted Thomas, Sr.

The building of the more than $ 4 million complex known as the New Community Temple and Christian Center was the realization of a dream for Bishop Ted Thomas Sr., Virginia First's Jurisdictional Prelate. Bishop Thomas became the spiritual leader for the jurisdiction in 1984, following the demise of former prelate Bishop D C Love. Since that time Virginia First has grown from about 18 churches and missions to more than 50.

Bishop Thomas told *The Whole Truth* that upon taking the reigns of leadership on that faithful day in 1984, it was his sincere desire not only to carry on the rich legacy established by Bishop Love, but to build upon it as well. "I hold fast to St. Luke the 18th Chapter and 27th verse, were Jesus declares: *'The things which are impossible with men are possible with God,'*" he said. "Yes, I strongly believe that with God all things are possible."

The highly respected clergyman and educator then recalled how God visited him in a dream and departed divine insight concerning the work in Virginia First. He noted that this visitation was the culmination of him offering up prayers and supplications to God about the ministry.

"It was an actual dream, and it was glorious," Bishop Thomas said. "In the dream, God let me see the sanctuary as it would look in our new facility, and it was filled to its capacity."

This visionary and anointed leader stated he was convinced that the dream was God's way of confirming His blessings upon the ministries of New Community and Virginia First. Yet, there's a regret that he harbors from this *Heavenly Encounter.*

"In the dream, God also gave me a song," he recalled. "I knew it so well, and it lingered in my mind. My wife (Mother Charletta Clifton Thomas) encouraged me to write the words of the song down, while they were fresh in my mind. I was rejoicing way down in my soul. The thought never entered into my mind that I would forget the words to this special song. But, by 12 noon of that same day sure enough, I had forgotten the words."

The personable prelate, however, has not forgotten the vision for ministry that God has given to him. "I have been given a holistic approach to ministry," he said in a reflective tone. "Here at New Community Temple, we believe in ministering to the total man."

Bishop Thomas added that New Community Temple's Christian Center plays a crucial role in the congregation's holistic ministry. "Our Christian Center has tremendously enhanced our efforts to extend our ministries into the community," he said.

The more than 500 members at New Community Temple have graciously offered the use of their Christian Center to several local community-based organizations. The list includes the Civic League, Girl Scouts, Boy Scouts, and the City and County governments.

"I am elated that the entire community has been able to take advantage of the various services offered by the New Community Temple Christian Center," Bishop Thomas observed. "I'm especially pleased that our facility has been utilized to impact the youth of the community."

Bishop Thomas was referring to such initiatives as a summer program that was designed to feed the disadvantaged youth of Portsmouth. This summer, young people up to the age of 18 were able to receive a nutritious meal at the Center cost free. New Community provided the facility and personnel, while the local government donated the food. Additionally, there has been youth sleep-ins at the facility, where the young people were able to participate in forums that were designed to motivate them to become productive citizens.

Located at 3615 Tyre Neck Road, New Community COGIC was founded in 1949 – after Mother Clara Palmer, a seasoned missionary, went through the Sugar Hill section of Portsmouth, teaching the Word of God. Through her evangel-

istic endeavors, many souls were saved. Eventually, Mother Palmer requested that Bishop Love, then Prelate of Virginia, send a pastor to start a church in the Twin Pines (now Merrifields) section of Portsmouth.

Elder Junius L. Clifton, father of Elect Lady Thomas, was sent in response to Mother Palmer's appeal and led the people into a temporary worship facility. New Community's first service was held in the Lodge Hall. God moved mightily through those services and by the time the congregation built the first worship facility, they had overflow crowds in each service.

In 1967, Elder Clifton relocated to Salisbury, Maryland, and the current pastor, Bishop Ted Thomas, Sr. was appointed to lead the congregation. God's Word continued to have a *Free Course* under the new pastor's ministry, and the membership grew – which required the construction of an additional wing to the worship facility.

Following pastor Thomas' appointment to the Office of Bishop in 1984 and the designation of New Community COGIC as the Jurisdictional headquarters, the congregation added another wing to the sanctuary. Bishop Thomas' leadership had the same impact on the Virginia First as it did on New Community; and a third wing had to be added to Headquarters to accommodate the state meetings.

In fact, the jurisdiction had long outgrown the New Community sanctuary, and as a result, the Holy Convocations were held in nearby public school auditoriums. Then came that faithful day in 2002, when God gave Bishop Thomas a vision for a new Temple and Christian Center. From this vision evolved New Community Temple COGIC and Christian Center. First, the congregation built the Christian Center. Then, they tore down the original church structure, and finally, they built the new Temple.



Under Bishop Thomas' visionary leadership, God has blessed the membership at New Community to amass 7 parcels of land for parking and a Printing and Publishing facility. Additionally, all state meetings can now be held at Headquarters.

Several members at New Community told *The Whole Truth* they are thankful to God for a shepherd who is led by God and who strives to always find himself in the "*perfect will of God.*"

Bishop Thomas was born October 19, 1935 in Raeford, North Carolina. He was a product of the public schools system, and went on to become a man of letters. He graduated from Norfolk State University with a Bachelors of Science Degree in Mathematics. He earned a Maters of Science Degree in Mathematics from Hampton University. The Right Reverend Bishop Ted Thomas, Sr. earned a Doctorate of Divinity Degree from Trinity Hall College.

He was a mathematics teacher in the Norfolk Schools System for three years. For five years, he taught mathematics for the Evening College at Norfolk State University, and for eleven years he served as an assistant principal in the Norfolk Schools System.

The distinguished clergyman/educator was licensed to preach in 1959. He serves as Secretary for the National College of Bishops for COGIC, and is a member of the Board of Directors for the Congress of National Black Churches. His civic duties include serving on the Regional Advisory Board for The Bank of The Commonwealth in Norfolk.

Bishop Thomas is married to Mrs. Charletta Clifton Thomas. They are the parents of six sons – Ted Jr., Christopher, Marc, Charles Sr., Jonathan, and Reuben. They are the grandparents of seven grandchildren. His parents are the late Elder and Mrs. Simuel Thomas. He has two sisters and four brothers.

Other awards and highlights include being named: *Minister of the Month*, by the Athenian Corporation in Norfolk, Virginia; *Who's Who in Religion*, by Marquis Publishers in Chicago, Illinois; and the *US Postal Award* from the United States Post Office in Portsmouth, Virginia.

Yes, Bishop Thomas is indeed a distinguished leader. One who is well versed and qualified whether he is in the pulpit or classroom. His primary focus, however, is encouraging all humankind to be all that they can be in the Lord. In fact, you can actually feel the tone of excitement in the voice of the Prelate for the Virginia First when he declares: "*With God all things are possible. Believe it and receive it!*"

Heavenville in Evansville:

Supt. William Simmons Sr. and the Progressive Holy Temple COGIC Family take a Holistic Approach in Proclaiming the Good News of the Gospel

By Calvin L. Burns

Evansville, Indiana – Mom, fried chicken, and apple pie. Yes, we are talking about symbols of America, a country that has indeed been blessed by God. Inspite of the initial devastation and aftermath of 9-11-2001, and other lingering domestic problems, our nation remains a land of democracy and freedom. Here, we still have the right to worship Almighty God in the beauty of holiness. Any law abiding citizen can travel freely in pursuit of that well-known, but sometimes elusive *American Dream.*

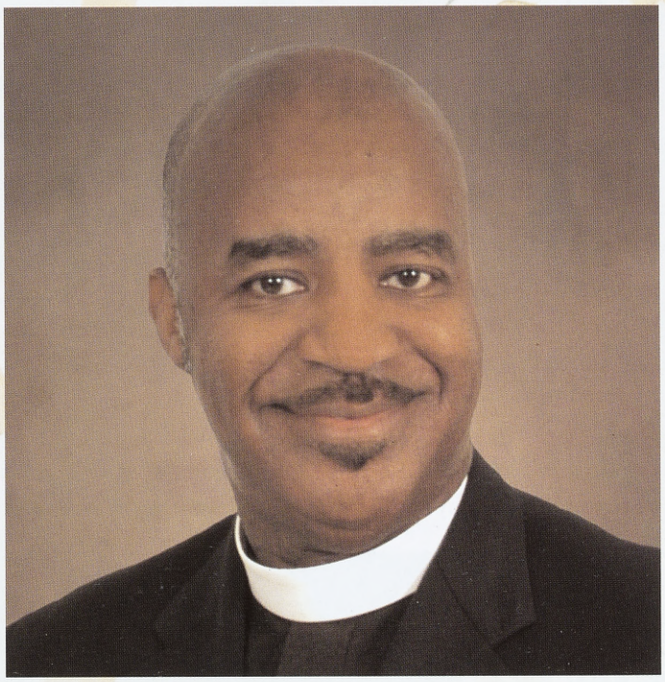
Individuals traveling to Evansville will find themselves in a city where the quality of life is good and where the leadership and the majority of the citizenry represent those high ideals that America stands for. In fact, Mayor Jonathan Weinzapfel (D) and the more than 122,000 residents of this lovely Midwest town have the distinction of being named the *All American City*, by the National Civic League.

You won't get an argument from the leadership of Evansville by declaring that this is a city that has been favored by God. Leaders from every segment of the community also concur that Superintendent William Simmons Sr., Senior Pastor of Progressive Holy Temple Church Of God In Christ, plays a vital role in evoking the Lord's blessings on the entire community.

Superintendent Simmons is a family man. He has been married to his charming wife, Missionary Felicia Simmons, for 35 years. They are the devoted parents of four children: Alicia, Timothy, William W. Jr. and Shanese. Missionary Simmons, who operates in the office of a prophetess, says she sees her number one role as being a helpmate to her husband and supporting him in ministry.

A highly respected community leader, Pastor Simmons also serves with distinction in the Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Indiana, where the anointed and visionary Bishop Benjamin Arthur Sanders is prelate. In addition to his duties as Bishop Sanders' Second Administrative Assistant, the personable minister also serves as Superintendent of the Shiloh District and pastors at Greater Holy Temple in Princeton, Indiana. The focal point of this holiness-based holistic ministry, however, is in Evansville.

Located at 1700 Pollack Avenue, Progressive Holy Temple has the esteemed honor of being the largest COGIC congregation in the Greater Evansville area. Supt. Simmons



Superintendent William Simmons, Sr.

became head of the flock in 1974, when there were only three members. Today, the membership roll has swelled to more than 500 members, and an 8 a.m. Sunday morning worship service has been added to the 12 noon worship in order to better accommodate those who were having difficulty finding a seat for Sunday morning worship.

The congregation moved to its current location in 1982, and the seating capacity is 350. A one million dollar building fund program is now underway to support the plans that call for expanding the worship facility and doubling the available seating. In fact, during Supt. Simmons' pastorate his congregations have purchased property with a replacement value of more than one million dollars. Please keep in mind that this occurred in a city with a population of less than 150,000. Supt. Simmons quickly pointed out to *The Whole Truth*, however, that the number he is really excited about deals with the tithing percentage.

"I thank God, that here at Progressive Holy Temple we are a 99 percent tithing church," Pastor Simmons said. "We are supporting the ministry in the way God would have us; and as a result His people are being blessed tremendously."

With that point of emphasis made, the stately clergyman then noted that he really does not place a great deal of significance on counting the number of members in his congrega-



tion, or for placing an emphasis on numbers in general.

"I don't count numbers, I make numbers count," he explained. "It is my philosophy that you can do more with 50 willing workers than with 5,000 people who won't cooperate."

Working in sync as part of a cohesive unit, was one of the many virtues that were taught and demonstrated to Pastor Simmons during his formative years as a child. He was born in Princeton, Indiana on March 29, 1945 to Ivan H. Simmons, Sr. and Lunolia A. Simmons. This distinguished minister is the second eldest of eleven siblings and a fifth generation member of the Church Of God In Christ.

Mr. Ivan Simmons is now 78 years old. He recalled to *The Whole Truth* how he and his wife, who recently celebrated her 80th birthday, raised their 11 children up in COGIC. "We lived in Patoka, Indiana, population 350," Mr. Simmons said. "I worked in a meat packing plant, and my wife put all of her energy into working in the home and being there for our children. The main thing we tried to do in raising them was to be a godly example in the home by living a saved life before them. And, after doing that, we just put our foot down and told them as saved parents; there were certain things that we were just not going to allow to take place in our home."

Mother Lunolia Simmons echoed the sentiments of her husband while reflecting on the significance of nurturing a fifth generation for membership in COGIC. "We taught our children to have respect. First, for themselves, each other, and all people, especially the elderly," she recalled. "They were brought up in the *Sunshine Band, Purity Class and YPWW*." Mother Simmons added that she and Mr. Simmons first noticed that there was a special calling on the young William Simmons' life when he was active in *YPWW*.

"Mother Lucille Maddox told us how attentive William was in class," Mother Simmons noted. "Mother Maddox went on to say that young William had a presence about him that stood out over the rest of the children. She said that she believed that he was going to be a leader of people (community leader) as well as a preacher. Of course, we had noticed some of these things about William…so we took this as a confirmation."

Mother Maddox's observations concerning the young William Simmons certainly have been confirmed as being a *Revelation Word of Knowledge from God*. Her promising pupil finished his studies in the Gibson County public schools and went on to earn an Associate of Science Degree at Vincennes University and a Bachelor of Arts Degree from the University of Evansville.

Pastor Simmons served in the United States Army as a sergeant, where his primary duties involved supervising a monthly payroll of more than one million dollars. Those responsibilities well-prepared him for his staff position with former Evansville Mayor, Russell Lloyd, who he served as coordinator of PSE Employment. While in this position, Pastor Simmons had the responsibility of managing an area that had an annual budget of more than one million dollars.

Some of his community service contributions include his work with the Evansville Interdenominational Ministers Alliance and the Community Marriage Builders. Pastor Simmons has served as president of the Ministers Alliance and he is a member of the Board of Directors at Marriage Builders. Both groups are committed to the mission of transcending denominational ties in ministering to the various spiritual and social needs of a diverse community.

Members of the editorial staff of *The Whole Truth* had the opportunity to attend an open house sponsored by Community Marriage Builders. While at this event, they were able to get an insight on the organization and on the impact that Supt. Simmons' ministry is having in the community.

Dr. Ann Gries is the executive director for Community Marriage Builders. She explained to *The Whole Truth* that the non profit organization is dedicated to the cause of educating and equipping the community for lifetime marriages. This is





Pastor William and First Lady Felicia Simmons

accomplished by encouraging marriage preparation, marriage enrichment and reconciliation. The group was organized in 1996 after a study conducted by a United Way Task Force revealed that the breakdown of families was the core problem for a great deal of the community's ills. The group is available to all churches and denominations that are interested in developing ministries that are aimed at strengthening marriages. For additional information, you may contact Dr. Ann Gries at, (812) 477-2260.

"We are really glad to have Pastor Simmons as a member of our board," Dr. Gries said. "He is very much respected in the community, and he has been an enormous help to us in offering our services to the Black community. I've worked with Pastor Simmons on other boards, and he has made vast contributions everywhere that he has served."

For Supt. Simmons, serving the community is a vital part of his approach to ministry. "I believe in a holistic ministry, which is meeting the need both naturally and spiritually," he explained to *The Whole Truth*. "I believe in applying the total word to the total man. If we do that, then, we are doing what Jesus did. He fed the hungry, he prayed for the sick and they were healed…my overall vision is to see that man can reach his full potential, especially spiritually."

One of the scriptures that the insightful leader uses for a personal call to action is the *Third Epistle of John 1:2* – ***Beloved, I wish above all things that thou mayst prosper and be in health, even as thy soul prospereth.*** At Progressive Holy Temple, the embodiment of that scripture is seen in such ministries as the **Feeding the Homeless Love Pantry**, **Holy Temple Nurses Unit**, **Ready to Help Ministry**, **Holy Temple Mission Outreach**, **Christian Bookstore**, and **Overcomers Ministry.** There is also a **Television and Radio Ministry**, **Door-to-Door Evangelism** and more than 20 other ministries.

Supt. Simmons is indeed an anointed minister of the Gospel. His message clearly reflects God's call to holiness and a sanctified lifestyle. That theme was evident on the Sunday of *The Whole Truth's* visit.

Our gracious host spoke from the theme, *Keeping My Temple Clean*. His text was taken from several verses in *II Corinthians 7 Chapter*. In his message, Supt. Simmons stressed the importance of knowing that our body is the temple of the Holy Ghost, and God demands that we keep it clean. Having a Holy Temple reflects in the way we talk, conduct business and treat humanity, he explained. Those observations reinforce another scripture that this visionary minister uses as a theme, *II Timothy 2: 19 – Nevertheless the foundation of God standeth sure, having this seal, the Lord knoweth them that are His. And let everyone that nameth the name of Christ depart from iniquity.*

Earlier, Supt. Simmons had told those attending Progressive Holy Temple while visiting Evansville that he wanted them to experience the presence of God so mightily that they would consider themselves as being in "Heavenville."

That's exactly what happen to the now, Elder Levon Dozier, when he traveled to Evansville more than a decade ago to attend a youth conference at Progressive Holy Temple. Not only was he saved, but he was delivered from drug addiction. He knows Supt. Simmons to be a man of integrity who lives the life that he preaches about. Elder Samuel Bragg visited Progressive after his job as an electrician relocated him to Evansville. He can attest to the fact that Supt. Simmons is a man who radiates with Christian hospitality and whose very essence reflects the spirit of God.

Yes, there is a sweet spirit that prevails at Progressive Holy Temple COGIC. This is indeed a hallow edifice of inspiration. People are being saved, healed, and set on a path of spiritual and natural prosperity. In Evansville one can truly get a look at an All American city. Additionally, they also have an opportunity to enjoy a view of a heavenly setting in the form of a Holiness-Pentecostal worship and a glance at the impact that the International Church Of God In Christ is having worldwide.

For additional information concerning worship opportunities and inreach/outreach ministries at Progressive Holy Temple COGIC, call (812) 479-5707.

From the Desk Of

Mother Willie Mae Rivers

General Supervisor Women's Department

Greetings to our Presiding Bishop, Gilbert E. Patterson, the members of the General Board and all of the officials of our great church. I extend a warm welcome to all the saints of the Most High God.

Since the last convocation, we have been busy yet prayerfully working in the Kingdom of God. Of course our highlight was the Women's International Convention held in St. Louis, Missouri where over 15,000 women of the Church Of God In Christ enjoyed a spiritually refreshing time in bonding together. Indeed, the City of St. Louis will never be the same! My soul rejoiced for the reports of those who were blessed through the services, our street witnessing team and our visit to the convalescent home. Again, I salute Bishop R.J. Ward, Mother Rosetta Watts and all of the area Jurisdictional Bishops and Supervisors for a splendid job!

There were over 400 Jurisdictional and Assistant Supervisors who attended the Leadership Conference and 9,000 women were in attendance for the General Leadership Conference. I want the entire church to know that there are young women who are serious about holiness and fulfilling their assignment to tell the world of the love, deliverance and healing that Jesus Christ gives. In the Chat with the General Supervisor 950 young women ages 49 and under filled the room eagerly expressing their love for the Church, their desire for continued teaching of Holiness and their continued need for mentoring from the mothers.

Since our 2004 Women's International Convention the Lord has blessed me to travel to the following jurisdictions:

California Valley ~ Bishop Doyle and Supervisor Blanche McGee

Georgia 1st ~ Bishop Chandler D. Owens and Supervisor Edith McGrew

New York 1st ~ Bishop J. Gaylord and Supervisor Marcelle Harris

Nebraska ~ Bishop J.O. Ford, Jr. and Supervisor Martha Parker

New Jersey 1st ~ Bishop Martin L. Johnson and Supervisor Olive L. Brown

North Carolina Greater ~ Bishop L. J. Woolard and Supervisor Mary L. Green

Wisconsin S.E. ~ Bishop Sedwick Daniels and Pastor and Mother Bates

Los Angeles, CA ~ National Aim Convention

Orlando, FL ~ National Pastors and Elders Conference

Memphis-Mississippi ~ Founders Day Birthday Celebration

I look forward to seeing all of the precious saints at the 97th Annual Holy Convocation and experiencing a wonderful time in praying, training and worship experiences as only the saints can. Let us pray that the Lord will bless the Women's Day Service. I am requesting that each female delegate be in place to hear the Official Address to the Women, promptly at 9:00 a.m. on Friday, November 12, 2004 to receive directives for the upcoming year. The Charging and Installation Service for the newly appointed Jurisdictional Supervisors will be held on Friday evening at 6:00 p.m.

In closing, I want to thank all of the saints of God, for your prayers, your encouraging words, financial support, throughout the year and to admonish every believer to bond in prayer for God's perfect will to be done in the election of the leadership of our church, and that each of us will strive to fulfill our God-given assignment . Keeping in mind that all the glory, honor, and praise belong to God.



Yours for Christ's Service,

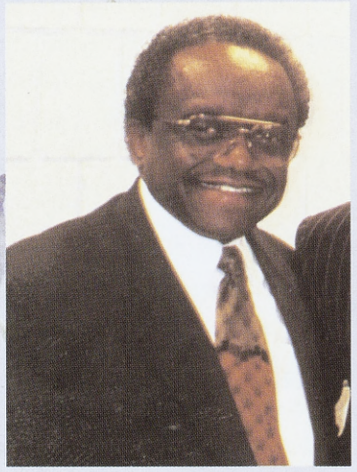
Mother Willie Mae Rivers

Dr. Oliver J. Haney, Jr.

A Life Dedicated to Ministry: He Retires after 30 years as Dean of the Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary

By Quintin Robertson

Oliver J. Haney, Jr. came to the Interdenominational Theological Center (ITC) in 1966 as an at-large student. He graduated in 1969 and returned to his alma mater in 1971 as Director of Recruitment and Public Relations. In 1974 he was elected as the second Administrative Dean of the Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary, he served in this position for thirty years with two of those years serving as Interim President of the Interdenominational Theological Center.



Dr. Oliver J. Haney, Jr.

Oliver J. Haney, Jr. was born on July 16, 1941 to the late Oliver J. Haney, Sr. and Gracie Haney in Helena, Arkansas. Oliver earned the Bachelor of Arts degree in Philosophy and Religion in 1965 from Philander Smith College in Little Rock, Arkansas.

It was while he was a sophomore at Philander Smith and a member of a religious club that consisted of four other young men, three United Methodists and one United Church of Christ, that he learned of ITC and the importance of seminary preparation for ministry. The late Bishop Cornelius Henderson of the United Methodist Church and former dean of Gammon Theological Seminary of ITC came to Philander Smith to recruit students. He was intrigued and applied to ITC and began his matriculation for the Master of Divinity degree in 1966 bringing along his bride LaVerne.

When he matriculated at ITC, he became youth pastor at Hinsley Temple COGIC in Atlanta. Upon graduating from ITC in 1969 he served as a supply pastor for two years. Then the position of Director of Recruitment and Public Relations became available at the Interdenominational Theological Center. Dr. Oswald P. Bronson who was then the president of ITC called Oliver and asked him if he would be interesting in serving in the position. He served for only two and half years when the position of Dean of the Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary came available. The Board of Trustees of the Seminary that was chaired at that time by Bishop Charles E. Blake, a 1965 graduate of ITC wrote to inquire of his interest in serving as dean. He was interviewed by a committee of the board that consisted of Bishop Blake, Bishop Roy L.H. Winbush (current chairman), the late Bishop J.D. Husband and the late Dr. A. J. Hines.

Dr. Haney has worked in various positions within the Church of God in Christ. For sixteen years he served as program committee chairperson of the United National Auxiliary Convention (UNAC), now called Auxiliaries in Ministry (AIM). He has also served since 1990 as pastor of the New Horizons Church of God in Christ in East Point, Georgia. And he has traveled extensively throughout the USA and the world preaching and teaching. Dr. Haney's ministry has taken him to Asia, Europe, Canada and Israel. He has been featured in several articles over the years in both Ebony and Jet. He has served as the Chairman of the Board of Directors for Beulah Heights Bible College in Atlanta. He has been presented a Key to the City of New Orleans and to the City of Indianapolis. In 1990 his home state of Arkansas bestowed on him an Honorary Citizen Award. ITC awarded him the honorary Doctor of Divinity degree in 1995.

Dr. Haney advises all who aspire to go into the ministry to love the Lord and make your calling and election sure as the scriptures say. He continues to emphasize how crucial it is for all of us to listen for what God would have us to do. Once you have ascertained God's purpose for your life, then you should develop your spiritual life and your walk with the Lord, he explains. Cultivate a hunger for knowledge; in essence he states one should make studying your basic foundation. Dr. Haney states that our world is changing so fast and a trained individual in ministry is needed for future success. "Whatever you do, never stop learning."

Dr. Haney practices what he preaches. Whenever you visit Dr. Haney in his office he is reading a new book or a current periodical. His sermons reflect not only his biblical knowledge, but also his daily study and attention to cutting edge issues and current events. Dr. Haney was asked a few years ago about some of his sermons that he felt were particularly important both impacting and changing the lives of his listeners. He answers this question by quoting the title of one sermon that he preached in Memphis in 1981 at the quadrennial installation service entitled "On Time With Time", but he tells us that most people remember as "13 O'clock." He then tells us a sermon he preached at UNAC in the New Orleans Superdome in 1977 entitled "With God Its Just As Easy." Another sermon that was very impacting was done in the mid 1970's at a Men's Day Service in Jacksonville, Florida entitled "Hello Mighty Man." He states even today that wherever he goes someone will walk up to him and say "Hello Mighty Man." And a last one that he states with the aforementioned three that is often requested of him to preach is "How To Get Up When You Are Down."

Anyone who knows Dr. Haney knows that he has a wonderful disposition characterized by patience and humility. Dr. Haney states that he like to have fun and laugh and see other people happy. He shared a personal story that helped mold his personality. As a child he states that he had double pneumonia

on three separate occasions. There was a doctor who treated him on two of those occasions who Dr. Haney says was the kindest and gentlest person he had encountered. Reflecting on the experience Dr. Haney stated "somehow he touched my life, and had an indelible impression on the importance of kindness toward people." Dr. Haney furthers states that this doctor's kindness made him consider medical school before he decided on seminary. Dr. Haney states that ministry is about compassion and he considers compassion to be the greatest of all emotions.

Oliver moved to Memphis during his high school years and became a member of Pentecostal Temple Institutional Church of God in Christ. During his junior year in high school he attended a tent revival in Memphis at Crump and Wellington. It was at this revival that our founder, Bishop Charles Harrison Mason, called him forth and anointed him. Dr. Haney states that he still vividly remembers Bishop Mason pouring oil on him and laying hands on him. What a powerful testimony, the man who would serve as the dean of our seminary named in honor of the Founder of our church would receive impartation directly from the Founder.

Over the years there have been great men of God who have mentored and influence Dr. Haney's life and ministry. He states that Bishop J.O. Patterson, Sr. was his most influential mentor having a powerful impact on his life. Other men of God who mentored Dr. Haney were Elder W. T. Adams, Pastor J. H. Jennings, under whom he received Christ as his savior and Elder Theodore Quick, who was his pastor during his college days and officiated at his wedding. He states that Pastor Quick was a stately, quiet, senior man with a spiritual depth that he admired and has sought to emulate.

Dr. Haney now stands as a mentor to hundreds whose lives and ministries he has touched.

Upon reflecting on his service to the church as Dean of the Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary he states that it has been both a rewarding and difficult job. He states that if he could change anything during his tenure as dean he states that he would look for some way or a different strategy to convince the Church of God in Christ of the importance of theological education. He states he would find some innovative way to help the Church understand the importance of committing to train men and women for ministry. He states that looking back now he would recruit more students and ask the Church to increase the staff at the seminary. And finally he states that he would work harder in job placement for all graduates of the seminary.

Dr. Haney credits his family for supporting him during his tenure. His wife, LaVerne, has been with him since the beginning. He states that when he first met her, she was determined not to marry a preacher. When he decided to ask for her hand in marriage, she hesitated. He explained to her "LaVerne if you marry me you are not marrying a preacher, you are marrying a man who happens to be a preacher." She said yes and since that time she has been a wonderful wife and partner in ministry. To their union one son was born Oliver J. Haney, III who is affectionately called Joey. Dr. Haney states that Joey has added so much to their lives. Joey serves with his father at New Horizons Church of God in Christ and he and his beautiful wife Tiffany are the parents of

Olivia and Oliver J. Haney, IV. The two grandchildren are the apple of Dr. and Mrs. Oliver J. Haney's eyes.

Dr. Haney you have done a magnificent and superb job! There are many graduates of the seminary that are serving in every capacity of our beloved Church. Today, C H Mason Seminary boasts of many military chaplains, missionaries, evangelists, elders, pastors and bishops. Because of Dr. Haney's longstanding dedication and commitment to theological education, Mason Seminary remains dedicated to producing outstanding men and women who are extraordinary leaders committed to serving God and humanity.

The Charles Harrison Mason Seminary was founded in March 1970 on the campus of the Interdenominational Theological Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia and opened officially in September 1970. Mason Seminary is hailed as the first African American accredited Pentecostal seminary in America. The primary task of the Seminary is that of providing spiritual discipline and intellectual nurture for men and women in preparation for Pentecostal witness. It also is to interpret the Pentecostal experience and message to people and to demonstrate its relevance and place in the transformation of modern society.

The current Board of Trustees:

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Elder Levi Willis, III, Student Fellowship President

Elder Arthur F. Mosley, Interim Dean
Mrs. Tiffany Haney, Administrative Assistant

Elder Quintin Robertson is a Doctor of Ministry Candidate and Director of Admission and Recruitment at Charles Harrison Mason Theological Seminary, which is part of a theological consortium known as the Interdenominational Theological Center

90th Anniversary Celebration of COGIC in Michigan/Canada

The Saints of the Church Of God In Christ in Michigan/Ontario, Canada celebrated our Church's 90th anniversary in their state/country on April 17. COGIC's ministry was established in Michigan/Canada in March of 1914, after Elder W.G. Johnson and his wife, Mother Mary Mangum-Johnson, relocated from Memphis to Detroit – where they established the Livingstone Church Of God In Christ.

Today, the Church Of God In Christ, Michigan/Canada (Ontario) is comprised of 12 jurisdictions, representing over 500 churches. Indicative of the international influence of COGIC's ministry, every segment of the community in the State of Michigan is being impacted by the saints.

The Honorable Jennifer M. Granholm, Governor of the State of Michigan made this observation: "God Almighty has blessed the Church Of God In Christ to be one of the largest and fastest growing denominations in the country, Hallelujah….what a Blessing," the Governor said. "You have reached out as visionary leaders to save the lost and you are certainly to be commended for your diligent efforts. I also commend the Church Of God In Christ for your dedication and determination in ensuring that not only the church, but the community as well is represented with people who have a steadfast mission of saving souls."

Kwame M. Kilpatrick, Mayor of the City of Detroit, echoed Governor Granholm's sentiments concerning COGIC's presence in Michigan. "Since being established in the State of Michigan by Elder W.G. Johnson….the Church Of God In Christ has served as a stabilizing force for good and a supporter of efforts that improve the human condition," Mayor Kilpatrick observed. "The Church Of God In Christ Michigan/Canada has been a spiritual beacon for the entire region. The Bishops and State Supervisors who currently lead the regional church are living testimonies to the history of the Grand Old Church."

Governor Granholm and Mayor Kilpatrick are to be commended for their keen insight of the mission and vision of the International Church Of God In Christ, and how those factors are reflected in the churches in that region. For it was not an arbitrary decision on Elder Johnson's part to come to Michigan.

In fact, on that faithful day his Call to Michigan was made, he was led by the anointing of the Holy Ghost to write a message in a hand-writing where the wording was unknown, because the letters were not from the English Alphabet. Then, our Founding Father, Bishop C.H. Mason, interpreted the message as: "Brother Johnson's call to Michigan."

After he answered God's call to Michigan to establish the work of the Church Of God In Christ, Elder W. G. (Ting-a-Ling) Johnson then, opened the door for a long-line of anointed and visionary General Overseers. They are: Overseer Mack E. Jonas – (1923-1924); Overseer I.S. Stafford, a Medical Doctor – (1924-1930); Overseer J.H. Kissintiner – (1930-1933); and Overseer, Bishop Cleveland Landis Anderson, Sr. (1939-1959).

God established the Canadian Churches of God In Christ through a vision that He gave to Elder Leslie Morton, Sr. The visionary minister began pastoring in Branford, Ontario where he used the facilities of radio station CFO in Chatham. He pastored in West Virginia for a short time and then moved to Detroit where he became assistant pastor to Elder I.W. Winans. There the Lord spoke to him to come back to Canada. Around 1930, he began ministering in Amerstburg, Ontario. He went on to minister in Windsor, and in 1940 he completed the building of Mount Zion COGIC there. Latêr, the now Bishop Morton carried his work to Toronto, Canada. He also conducted services on the Munci and Oshwegan Indian Reservations.

The Call was made in an unknown writing, and the interpretation was given – and God's man for the hour answered the call. Thus, as in all 50 states and countries around the world, COGIC has grown tremendously.

Today, the following distinguished Bishops are overseeing the work in Michigan/Ontario, Canada: General Board Member, Bishop Phillip A. Brooks, II, Prelate, Northeast Michigan Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction; General Board Member, Bishop Nathaniel W. Wells, Jr., Prelate, Western Michigan Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction; Vice Chairman of the National Board of Bishops, Bishop John Henry Sheard, Prelate, First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Southwest Michigan; Secretary of the National Judiciary Board, Bishop Herbert Williams, Sr., Prelate, North Central Michigan Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction; Bishop Earl Wright, Sr., Prelate, Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Southwest Michigan; Bishop Elton A. Lawrence, Prelate, Canadian/Michigan Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction; Bishop Fred Lewis, Prelate, Fourth Ecclesiastical

Jurisdiction of Southwest Michigan; Bishop Lionel B. Riley, Prelate, Ontario Jurisdiction; Bishop Marvin C. Pryor, Prelate, Third Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Southwest Michigan; Bishop Walter E. Bogan, Sr., Prelate, First Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Great Lakes Michigan; Bishop Alfred M. Smith, Prelate, Second Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Great Lakes Michigan; and Bishop Isaac King, Jr., Prelate, Southwest Michigan Agape Jurisdiction.

Praise God, the legacy continues in Michigan/Canada. The rich heritage in this region has given us such noted leaders as Bishop W.A. Patterson, Bishop C.L. Anderson, Sr., Bishop John Seth Bailey, Bishop Clarence Leslie Morton, Sr., and Dr. Mattie Moss Clark. Their contributions to society through the Church Of God In Christ have alerted the entire world of God's better way of traveling through life on The Highway of Holiness.



OVERVIEW OF ACTIVITIES AND *THE ORDER OF DIVINE WORSHIP*

97th Annual Holy Convocation 2004~ Monday, November 8 – Monday, November 15

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8, 9:00 A.M.
Mason Temple, 930 Mason Street
FASTING AND PRAYER

Led by
Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, Pastor Ron Hill, Evangelist Frances Kelley, and the Prayer Team. This time of fasting and prayer will continue until the close of the scheduled official opening, at approx. 2: 00 p.m., Tuesday, Nov. 9.

CONSECRATION OF OIL

During this segment thousands of bottles of Olive Oil will be consecrated, and given out during the Morning Manna services.

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 8
Temple of Deliverance, 369 G.E. Patterson Ave.
7:00 p.m., ANNUAL CONVOCATION PRE-MUSICAL
Professor Iris Stevenson, President Department of Music

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 9, 9:00 a.m., PRAYER AND INSPIRATIONAL HOUR
Mason Temple, 930 Mason Street
11:00 a.m., OFFICIAL OPENING OF 97th CONVOCATION
Mason Temple, 930 Mason Street
7:00 p.m., EVENING WORSHIP
Cook Convention Center, 225 N. Main Street
WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 10

All of Wednesday's events are slated for the Cook Convention Center, 225 N. Main Street

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7:45 a.m., MORNING MANNA
Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson

"Then said the Lord unto Moses, Behold, I will rain bread from heaven for you; and the people shall go out and gather a certain rate every day, that I may prove them, whether they will walk in my law, or no." Exodus 16:4

10:15 – 11:45 a.m., TRAINING INSTITUTE
NOON WORSHIP SERVICE
7:00 p.m., EVENING WORSHIP
THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 11th
7:45 a.m., MORNING MANNA
Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson
Cook Convention Center, 225 N. Main Street

10:15 – 11: 45 a.m., TRAINING INSTITUTE
Cook Convention Center, 225 N
Main Street
6:00 p.m., GLOBAL MISSIONS
Bishop C.L. Moody Sr.
Cook Convention Center, 225 N. Main Street

7:00 p.m., EVENING WORSHIP
The Pyramid, 1 Auction Avenue

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 12th
9:00 a.m., WOMEN'S DAY
Mother Willie Mae Rivers, International Supervisor, Department of Women

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Cook Convention Center, 225 N. Main Street
9:00 a.m. – until conclusion, MEN'S MINISTRY
Bishop Darrell Hines
Mason Temple, 930 Mason Street
6:00 – 7:45 p.m., CONCLUSION OF WOMEN'S DAY

The Pyramid, 1 Auction Avenue
7:45 p.m., EVENING WORSHIP
The Pyramid, 1 Auction Avenue
SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 13

7:45 a.m., MORNING MANNA
Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson
Cook Convention Center, 225 N. Main Street

10:15 – 11:45 a.m., TRAINING INSTITUTE
Cook Convention Center, 225 N. Main Street

NOON, YOUTH SERVICE
Evangelist Joyce Rodgers
Cook Convention Center, 225 N. Main Street

NOON, SUNSHINE BAND, PURITY CLASS
Evangelists Lytia Howard and Thelma Cotten

Mason Temple, 930 Mason Street
4:00 p.m., ANNUAL SCHOLARSHIP BANQUET
The Peabody Hotel, 149 Union Avenue

7:00 p.m., EVENING WORSHIP

The Pyramid, 1 Auction Avenue

COGIC
Women At Worship

SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 14 (Sunday School

TBA)

9:00 a.m., MORNING

The Pyramid, 1 Auction Avenue

THE LORD'S DAY

Services can be attended via satellite

at the following locations:

Cook Convention Center, 225 N. Main Street

Temple of Deliverance COGIC,

369 G.E. Patterson Avenue

Mason Temple, 930 Mason Street

EVENING CELEBRATION (YPWW, TBA)

7:00 p.m., WORSHIP

The Pyramid, 1 Auction Avenue

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15

10:00 a.m., HOLY COMMUNION

Cook Convention Center, 225 N. Main Street

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 15

5:00 p.m., THE CONVENING OF THE

GENERAL ASSEMBLY

Bishop J.O. Patterson Jr. Chairman

TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 16th

Quadrennial Elections







THE 97TH ANNUAL INTERNATIONAL HOLY CONVOCATION OF THE CHURCH OF GOD IN CHRIST

WEDNESDAY, NOV. 10TH; THURSDAY, NOV. 11TH; AND

SATURDAY, NOV. 13TH

10:15 – 11: 45 a.m. at the COOK CONVENTION CENTER, 225 N. MAIN STREET

BISHOP O.T. JONES, SR. MEMORIAL INSTITUTE

CLASS LISTING INSTRUCTORS (TBA)

The Otha M. Kelley Memorial Ministers' Institute

Sunday School

Jurisdictional Secretaries

Missions and Evangelism

What is the Leadership in Leadership?

Understanding the End Times

The Church Empowered by the Holy Ghost

Music Department

Youth Department

Pastor's Aid Presidents

Jurisdictional Assistant Supervisors

Jurisdictional Supervisors

Minister's Wives' Circle

The Ministry of Helps: Hospitality

Y.W.C.C.

Christian Women's Council (CWC)

Sunshine Band

Purity Class

District Missionaries

Licensed Missionaries

Prison, Hospitality and College Chaplaincy

Leadership and Spiritual Resources for Lay Leaders

Bishops' Wives' Circle

The Second Coming of Christ

Physical and Spiritual Health

Marriage and Family

Parenting: Biblical and Social Insights

Legal Issues for Church Leaders

Moving Obstacles Through Prayer

Teaching COGIC History and Doctrine

The Lizzie Robinson COGIC Women's History Institute

Christianity and Islam

Administrative Policies and Teaching Techniques for

C.H. Mason Jurisdictional Institute Deans and Faculty

COGIC Scholars

Ushers

Anointed for Warfare

We're Marching to Zion - Beautiful, Beautiful Zion
The Grand Opening of Zion Cathedral COGIC's New Edifice

By Yashima White

Freeport, New York – To some this may only be the lyrics of a Sunday morning hymnal, but to Bishop Frank O. White, the senior pastor of Zion Cathedral Church Of God In Christ, jurisdictional prelate of the Third Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Eastern New York, National Financial Secretary and the extended Zion Cathedral church family – this is a reality. At 9 a.m. Saturday, September 4, 2004 at 457 Babylon Turnpike in Freeport, they did literally march from their temporary location with singers, praise-dancers, flags and banners to their new Zion (312 Grand Avenue); but this time it's Zion Cathedral, no longer Little Zion; and this edifice is certainly beautiful.

"My heart is overjoyed to see this promise of God come into fruition," Bishop White stated. "My father, the late Deacon Jake White found this property for Bishop O.M. Kelly over 45 years ago and God still saw fit for us to build yet another temple on this holy ground for his glory."

With a relationship paralleling Paul and Timothy, the late Bishop Kelly saw the hand of the Lord on his protégé and released Bishop White to assume the awesome task of building a new church when Bishop White was just 30 years old. The project was completed and subsequent mortgage was satisfied in record time. In less than 10 months, the congregation held its dedication service. During which, Bishop Kelly prophesied that Bishop White would be the next pastor of Little Zion. Less than one year later, the prophecy was fulfilled. As pastor of Little Zion for the last 32 years, Bishop White continues to walk out the decree declared over is life by this man of God, and once again finds himself building another 'City of God' – Zion Cathedral.

The grand opening of this $4 million edifice is the conclusion of a demolition and building project. The cathedral, clothed in the revered purple of the Bishop, sits on a hill at the corner of Bishop Frank O. White Boulevard and Grand Avenue in Freeport. The main sanctuary seats 1,200 people comfortably amidst cutting edge technology for all mass media outlets. Fully handicap accessible, the fellowship hall of the facility can dine 400 people and is surrounded by media-wired classrooms, an intercessory prayer room, a state of the art commercial kitchen, a 48-track recording studio/television studio, and much more. This is the Episcopal Headquarters of the Third Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction of Eastern New York and the haven of rest for the members of the electrifying Zion Cathedral COGIC.

The long awaited and greatly anticipated grand opening was formerly celebrated in September by featuring a ribbon cutting ceremony with clergymen, civic leaders, a U.S. Representative, and other well wishers. Additionally, there



National Financial Secretary, Bishop Frank O. White

was an announcement by Dr. Frank Anthone White, who serves as co-pastor of Zion Cathedral, a National Trustee and Vice President of the National Music Department – in which he revealed that the celebration observance will be extended for two-months culminating with the official Dedication Service. Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson will be the keynote speaker for this special worship celebration.

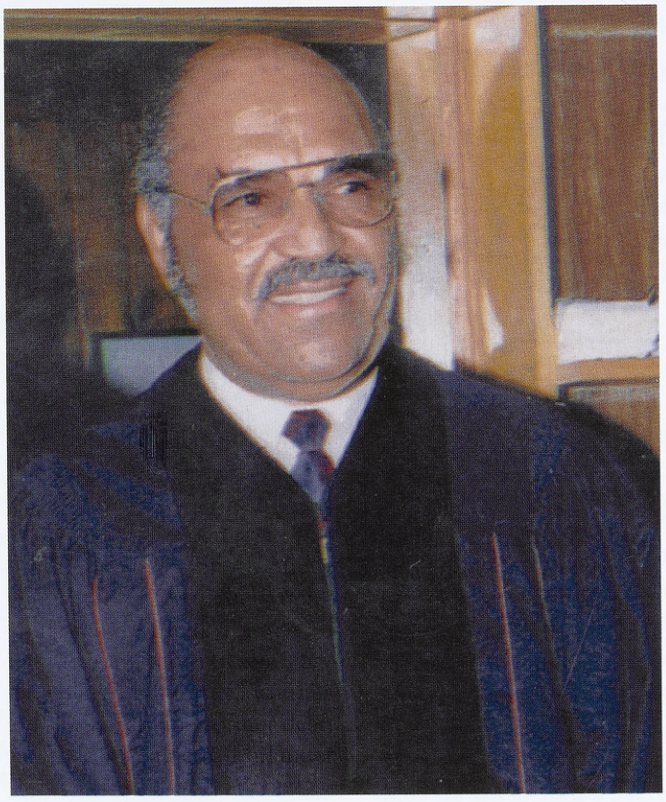
"We want everyone to not only have the opportunity to see our new sanctuary and share in our joy, but we want to see souls saved and people delivered in the midst of our celebration," Dr. White said. "I encourage people to come check us out and experience the Z-Force…that's the life changing power of the Zion experience."

Operating ministry with a family philosophy, the membership of Zion Cathedral mushroomed from less than 75 adults to over 1,500. With the taught and preached word of God, Zion Cathedral is empowering a generation of believers to take dominion and walk in their rightful place in every area of their lives. This newly erected facility is the headquarters of the O.M. Kelly Religious Training Institute and the Margaret B. White Christian Academy, a child-care and multi-purpose resource facility.

THE HOMEGOING CELEBRATION
for The Right Reverend Samuel Smith
Church Of God In Christ Auxiliary Bishop, Tennessee Fourth Ecclesiastical Jurisdiction

Memphis, Tennessee -The life of Bishop Samuel Smith, a man with a radiant smile and illuminating personality, was fondly remembered at a Homegoing Celebration Friday, July 16, at Temple of Deliverance Church Of God In Christ. His Grace, The Most Reverend Gilbert Earl Patterson, Presiding Bishop of the Church Of God In Christ and Senior Pastor at Temple of Deliverance, was Chief Officiant. He was assisted by Bishop Jerry Maynard, Chief of Staff for the National Church, and Jurisdictional Prelate for the Tennessee Fourth Jurisdiction.

Bishop Smith, 76, made several contributions to our National Church. The Clergy Bureau of Identification was birthed at the dining room table in his home as was the current format for our YPWW topic. He served as director of the Clergy Bureau until it was placed under the General Secretary's office. He departed this life on Sunday, July 11, 2004, at 3:33 p.m. After a gallant fight with leukemia, along with an unfailing faith, he went home to be with the Lord.



Bishop Samuel Smith 1927 - 2004

Bishop Smith had been married to the former Lee Ella Patterson, daughter of the late Bishop W.A. Patterson and Mother Mary Louise Williams Patterson, since August 30, 1952. To this union were born two daughters: Mrs. Barbara Joyce Smith Walker and Mrs. Cheryl Yvonne Smith Hall.

The distinguished clergyman was a third generation member of the Church Of God In Christ. His parents served under the leadership of their late pastor, Bishop William Roberts, in Fayette County, Tennessee. He was saved at Historic Mason Temple in 1948 during the International Holy Convocation. He was a member of Temple COGIC, where founding father, Bishop C.H. Mason, was pastor. Not only did "Dad Mason" call him his "Long Boy", Bishop Mason would lay his hands on him and pray. Bishop Smith testified that when Bishop Mason would lay hands on him — the power of God would be so great that it would almost take his breath away, and his strength would leave him momentarily.

He was the founding pastor of South Side COGIC, conducting the first service on a cold, snowy Sunday, January 20, 1960. Under his leadership the membership grew significantly and South Side became a focal point for COGIC in the South Memphis area.

A tall stately gentleman, Bishop Smith was remembered as a man of saintly charm and hospitality. COGIC Gospel music greats, Sandra and Andre Crouch recalled how he opened his home to their family for National meetings during the 1950s. Bishop Darrell Hines, Director of COGIC's Men's Ministry, shared his fond memories on how Bishop Smith gave him an opportunity to conduct revivals at South Side. He noted that the prayers and support of Bishop Smith went a long way in developing his ministry.

Additionally, there was a touching tribute from the family in Word and Song. After singing their tribute, daughters Mrs. Barbara Joyce Walker and Mrs. Cheryl S. Hall remembered their father as a loving person and dedicated pastor. He would always smile and be uplifting, even when he was not in approval of something, they recalled.

In his eulogy, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson said that Bishop Samuel Smith epitomized what it means to continue to be joyful in the Lord, despite encountering the painful experiences that life brings. Although he "took some hits" in life Bishop Smith always gave God the Glory for his salvation, Presiding Bishop Patterson said. He then recalled visiting his brother-in-law at the hospital after he had been told by the doctors that he was in the final stages of this life. The Presiding Bishop stated that Bishop Smith expressed being "excited" about going "on a journey" that would take him into Glory with the Lord. He encouraged Bishop Smith's family and the entire assembly to remember the legacy he had left for maintaining his dignity and integri-

ty in righteousness while enduring trials and tribulations. Additionally, the Presiding Bishop admonished the saints not to lose focus on God's call to live a Holy and Separated life in this present world.

Bishop Smith was a man who exemplified having both the burning of God's anointing upon his life and the driving-desire to attain a quality education. He was born August 31, 1927, in Rossville, Tennessee. He was the eleventh of thirteen children born to Mr. Eddie Lee Smith Sr., and Mrs. Lucy Sales Smith. He received his early education in the public school system in Fayette County Tennessee, and Marshall County Mississippi (Somerville, Holly Springs). At this time in history, the public school systems in rural areas were often structured in a way that offered African-Americans an inferior education.



Mother Lee Ella Smith is comforted by her brother, Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson, before the Homegoing Celebration for her husband, Bishop Samuel Smith.

This, however, did not discourage him from pursuing the goal he set for himself to receive higher education. His hunger for education enabled him to finish high school courses in the Memphis Public Schools system. Afterwards, he entered Owen Junior College (now LeMoyne-Owen College), and received an Associate Degree in Christian Education with honors. Later, he attended the now Tennessee State University and the University of Tennessee through extension courses. He also studied at the Bible School that is now known as Creighton College.

Bishop Smith was ordained by the late Bishop A.B. McEwen Sr., and appointed as State Secretary of West Tennessee. He served faithfully in that position under the late Bishop J.O. Patterson Sr., and the late Bishop F.D. Macklin. In 1988, Tennessee became an open state and Bishop Smith chose to serve under Bishop G.E. Patterson in Tennessee Fourth Jurisdiction. He was appointed to the office of Administrative Assistant. In 1996, Bishop Smith became an Auxiliary Bishop under Former Presiding Bishop, C.D. Owens, and continued to serve as Administrative Assistant to Bishop Patterson. Later, when Jurisdictional Bishop Jerry L. Maynard succeeded Bishop Patterson, upon his election to the office of Presiding Bishop of COGIC – Bishop Maynard promoted Bishop Smith to the rank of Executive Administrative Assistant and the dedicated minister continued to serve faithfully under his leadership.

Due to the exemplary leadership exhibited during his lifetime, Bishop Smith mentored scores of young men and became affectionately known as "Pops." Today, there are several pastors who are a product of South Side COGIC's ministry. They include the following:

The late Elder H.A. Spight, King's Temple COGIC; Elder Thomas LaFlora Jr., Unity COGIC; Elder A.W. Pope, Deliverance Temple COGIC; Elder William Wright, Liberty COGIC; Dr. Granville Scruggs, Fireside Temple COGIC; Elder Lee Allen Spight, Holy Temple COGIC, Buffalo, NY; The late Elder W.C. Walker Jr., Jubilee COGIC; and Elder Leroy T. Triplett, Praise and Fellowship COGIC.

In addition to his devoted wife, Mrs. Lee Ella Smith, and his adoring daughters, Mrs. Barbara Smith Walker of Memphis, TN and Mrs. Cheryl Yvonne Smith Hall of Nashville, TN, Bishop Smith leaves the following individuals to cherish the precious memories that marked his life:

Four grandsons, William Samuel Walker (Sam), Charles Anthony Walker (Charlie), Lepoleon Hall III (Lee), and Jared Christopher Hall (Chris).

One son-in-law, Lepoleon Hall Jr. (Leo) of Nashville, TN.

Three sisters, Mrs. Alice Pate of Buffalo, NY; Mrs. Vessie Gatewood and Mrs. Virgie LaFlora of Memphis, TN.

One brother, Mr. Levi Smith of Holly Springs, MS.

Three brothers-in-law, Bishop G.E. Patterson and Supt. Thomas LaFlora of Memphis, TN and Mr. Willie Martin of Chicago, IL.

Five sisters-in-law, Mrs. Mary Patterson Hawkins and Mrs. Louise Dowdy Patterson of Memphis, TN, Mrs. Barbara Patterson Davis of Detroit, MI, Mrs. Luberta Smith and Dr. Nellie J. Smith of Holly Springs, MS.

Finally, there are a host of nieces, nephews, other relatives, special friends, and a loving, loyal and devoted church family that will always remember his dedication to them as pastor, counselor, and mentor. Yes, they will remember the radiant smile and glowing personality of a Saint of God who endured until the end.



Sister Sharon Miller displays some of the Praise and Worship items that are on sale at COGIC Bookstore. Established in 1973, the COGIC Bookstore is a full service Christian bookstore. It is located at 285 South Main Street, Memphis, TN 38103. Phone (901) 525-4004 – Fax (901) 525-4001.

2004 AIM CONVENTION DESIGNED TO Build on our Pentecostal Heritage

By Glenda Williams-Goodson

Missionary April Dawn Agnew of Arkansas contributed to this story

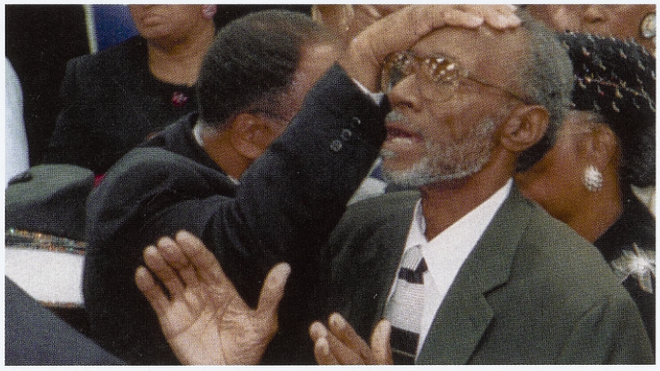
Church Of God In Christ adherents tend to be from the South as well as the North, from the inner city as well as gated communities yet all year long thousands of adults, youth and children prepare to spend a time of refreshing and fellowship with believers of like faith from around the world. The dates June 28-July 3, 2004 were the times for the Church Of God In Christ Summer Convention held in Los Angeles, California. The theme was *Walking in our Season, Building on our Pentecostal Heritage* (Acts 20:32.).

Behind the public stage and long before the masses converged upon Los Angeles, AIM President, Bishop Jerry Macklin and the entire staff of the Auxiliaries in Ministry Convention – Bishop Carlos Moody, who has served the Missions Department for over 25 years; Bishop Richard White, Evangelism; Superintendent Alton Gatlin, Sunday School; Superintendent Brandon Porter, YPWW, Professor Iris Stephenson, Music – worked relentlessly to provide a wealth of preaching, training, and extravaganza for every age group.

It is a known fact that a strong Sunday School makes a difference to any body of believers. Insightful pastors know that many times when they gather the children of the community other members of their family often follow. In the process of growing their churches on the foundation of the Word of God through the Sunday School, which began in the Church Of God In Christ under Professor L.W. Lee in 1908, these men of God have built upon the ISSD motto, *A Child Saved is a Soul Saved, Plus a Life*. Former International Sunday School Superintendents include General Board Member Bishop Roy Winbush, and AIM President Bishop Jerry Macklin. The current National President is Superintendent Alton Gatlin. The women, beginning with the first woman to work in the department with the men, Missionary Lucille Cornelius, also play an important role in giving a sense of direction and purpose. The current International Field Representative, Mother Georgia Macklin-Lowe, is the founder of the Daughters and Sons of Destiny Louise Patterson Pageant, which is designed to train COGIC youth to have poise, charm and godly principles.

The Music and Youth (M.Y.) Convention hosted daily training. The Youth Department held teen worship services and empowerment training where youth participated in discussions such as HIV/AIDS awareness. Youth Leadership training, basketball competitions and the popular Young Women of Excellence Talent Show and competition were all a part of the dynamic services as well as powerful preaching from some of the most anointed young men and women in the Church Of God In Christ. The Music Department's daily Powershops included music ministry, voice, directing and song writing forums as well as a youth musical extravaganza and of course the Friday night *Song is Born*.

Bishop Moody, Bishop White and all the officials of the Missions and Evangelist (M.E.) ministered to capacity crowds each night. Along with the President's official messages the ME Convention heard from Evangelist Maria Gardner Thomas, Supt. Derrick Hutchins, among others. Even in the classes hands were upraised in worship to God and in each service men and women were observed with tears running down their faces as the Lord blessed each soul.



A snapshot of AIM

Department prayer breakfasts, evening soirees and luncheons are all part of the fellowship of AIM. California First's Prelate, Bishop Charles Blake, Supervisor Barbara Lewis and the supporting jurisdictions hosted a luncheon for the Supervisors, Bishops Wives and national officials in downtown Los Angeles.

There's always much to do in AIM and this year was no exception. Elder Michael Eaddy of the Scholastic Motivation presented three performances of an unforgettable stage play, "Why Do I Do the Things I Do?" written by Professor Robert Simms and adapted by Workshop Coordinator Elder Brandon Delagraentiss. Young people from across the country participated and the actors and actresses allowed God to anoint them to bring a message of hope and love to lost souls.

The Education Department of the West Angeles COGIC hosted a luncheon for Elder Raynard Smith, Coordinator of the COGIC Scholars group. The daily sessions were well attended and a tour of the Bonnie Brae house was made.

A WHOLE TRUTH
NATIONAL DIRECTORS SPOTLIGHT:
COGIC'S NATIONAL PLATFORM COORDINATOR

Superintendent George W. Davis, Jr.



Superintendent George W. Davis, Jr.

The thousands of delegates and visiting dignitaries who attend the annual national meetings of the Church Of God In Christ can readily identify the radiant countenance and personality of the individual being featured in this article. Few, however, realize the significance of his awesome responsibilities and the exemplary manner in which they are carried out. Many others who work with the personable director are unaware that he is also an anointed and visionary pastor.

Since 1965, Superintendent George W. Davis, Jr. has served as the National Platform Coordinator for the Church Of God In Christ. His duties call for the handling of priority seating of the pulpit (platform) and the placement of all executive seating at every National or International COGIC meeting.

The manner in which this articulate coordinator orchestrates his duties is extremely impressive. Whether it's the entrance of the Presidium or President of the United States, all of the details have been worked out to the letter. Supt. Davis explained to *The Whole Truth* that he works closely with his staff to ensure that nothing will "fall through the cracks."

In fact, he travels to the location of the upcoming event at least a week in advance to workout all of the logistics. Occasionally the mind-set of the hosting jurisdiction is, "don't worry, we've got this." Then, the question is asked what about the soundman or the person handling the mikes? Or, will the mayor enter stage right or left? And, the most crucial yet, where will the musical quest and their entourage be seated, will additional seating be needed?

Needless to say, they soon grasp the crucial role of platform operations. Thus, the call for Superintendent Davis is made. He comes to the scene as a purveyor of knowledge, expertise, and kindness. Often, the audience is unaware that there was a possible snag that could have interrupted the decorum of worship.

The humble coordinator told *The Whole Truth* it is not by chance that he performs his duties in a pleasant manner, and with a commitment to excellence. "It is a pleasure to serve the Church Of God In Christ on the National level, and anything less than my best is a sin – and I don't want any form of sin in my life," he emphatically stated.

If you were thinking that those comments have the familiar ring of a loving and dedicated pastor who encourages his congregation to live Christ like daily, so that souls might be won for the Lord – you are 100 percent correct. Since August of 1997, this distinguished Elder has pastored at Green Pond COGIC in Gibson, North Carolina.

Green Pond is part of the North Carolina Second Jurisdiction, where Bishop C.E. Anderson is prelate. Initially, Bishop Anderson asked Pastor Davis to serve on an interim basis.

"Bishop Anderson requested that I serve for a two year period," he recalled. "I was asked to use my organizational skills to bring some structure to the body. At the end of that period, Bishop Anderson was ready to appoint a permanent pastor. The members said 'Bishop we feel that we already have our pastor.' They asked if he would consider making me their permanent pastor. Bishop Anderson did just that, and honored their request."

In announcing the appointment from Interim Pastor to Pastor on October 30, 1999, Bishop Anderson noted that Green Pond had developed a focus of purpose and experienced growth under their requested pastor's guidance. He expressed confidence that good things would continue to take place with Pastor Davis at the helm.

For the past seven years, Green Pond has indeed experienced tremendous growth. In fact, the congregation has grown from 19 members to 480. There has been a successful renovation program, and Pastor Davis was later given an appointment as Superintendent of the Central District of North Carolina Second.

Again, Bishop Anderson cited Green Pond's growth and Elder Davis' keen organizational skills as key factors in the decision to appoint him Superintendent. A review of the advancements made at Green Pond during the past several years reflect the evolvement of a work from a mission to a thriving church status.

These milestones were clearly reached due to the insightful strategic planning and godly leadership of Supt. Davis. Under his spiritual guidance Green Pond has become a viable community resource.

Some of the inreach/outreach ministries that have been established include: Intercessory Prayer and Deliverance Service (Bi-Weekly), Public Address and Audio Recording Ministry, Young Men in Christ Group, Saints Health Ministry, Community Wellness Seminars and Health Screenings, Scholarship Award Ministry, Green Pond Cub Scout Troop, Outreach Ministry, and the Sick and Shut in Visitation Ministry.

Yes, the membership quickly grasped the essence of their pastor's vision, and word soon spread about the focus of ministry at Green Pond. The faithful members so embraced the charge given to them by their pastor that they were able to pay off the church's mortgage eight years ahead of schedule. The mortgage was burned in March.

Superintendent Davis gives God the Glory for the marvelous things that have been done at Green Pond. He then quickly pointed out to *The Whole Truth*, however, that his main focus as a pastor is soul winning. "Our slogan here at Green Pond is: *The Bible is our authority. Souls are our priority*," he said.

This humble servant, who God has blessed with exceptional organizational skills, adds that a key to a successful life as a Christian is acknowledging God in every aspect of your life, and seeking to win souls for the Kingdom of God. "If we put God first, and souls second we will win the world for Christ," he said.

When he is not conducting services at Green Pond or attending to his national duties, Superintendent Davis resides in Washington, D.C. He has been married to his charming wife, Anna Rae, for 47 years. They are the loving parents of three adult children, who are all successful in the professional arena and are members of COGIC.

In addition to his duties as National Platform Coordinator, Superintendent Davis also serves as Male Assistant for the International Women's Department and Chairman of the Pastor's and Elders' Council for North Carolina's Second.

So now you know the rest of the story about this stately gentleman. He is indeed a pastor after God's own heart, which includes having a burden for souls.

Happy 90th **Birthday** *Mother Goyens*

Tampa, FL – Mother Elizabeth Goyens celebrated her 90th birthday on May 24. This charming Mother in the Lord attends College Hill COGIC, where Elder Charles Davis is Pastor.



Mother Elizabeth Goyens

"She never ceases to amaze everyone who knows her especially when they see her and her husband (Mr. Frank Goyens) driving to church every Sunday for both the day and night service," Elder Davis said of Mother Goyens. "Her love for God and humanity speaks for itself."

Mother Goyens was born May 24, 1914 in Caryville, FL. She gave her life to the Lord at the age of 12. Later, her family moved to Florala, Alabama; there she met and married Brother Goyens. They have been happily married for 72 years.

In 1937 she moved to Panama City, FL and joined Holy Temple COGIC and served as a faithful member and District Missionary. In 1962 she moved to Ft. Pierce, FL and joined Johnson Temple COGIC, where she served as church mother for 33 years. The dedicated couple became part of the College Hill family in 2001.

Here is a *Whole Truth* salute for Mother Elizabeth and Brother Frank Goyens. Many happy returns!

A COGIC WOMAN SPOTLIGHT:

Evangelist Glenda Williams-Goodson

A Sanctified Lady Who Excels in Ministry and the Corporate Arena with a Special Anointing and Strong Communication Skills

Dallas, Texas – She is saved, sanctified, Holy Ghost filled and definitely Pentecostal! A noted researcher, she also serves as *The Whole Truth's* Associate Editor for General and Women's news. Meet Evangelist Glenda Williams-Goodson. Indicative of a sanctified sister who has her priorities in order; Evangelist Goodson believes her home is the first front where she should utilize her talents to build up and to minister. She has been a devoted wife to George Edward Goodson for 35 years. They are the loving parents of one son and five grandchildren. Mr. Goodson, who is semi-retired from his career as a highly successful businessman, stands in full support of his wife's ministry, professional career, and the various other church and civic activities that she has committed herself to.



Brother George and Evangelist Glenda Goodson

"I thank God for the love and support of my husband," Evangelist Goodson said. "Without his permission it would have been impossible for me to serve effectively."

This gifted woman of God is an accomplished journalist and author. Her latest work is, *Bishop C.H. Mason and Those Sanctified Women!* This extremely well-written and informative book chronicles the rich legacy of the Women's Department of the Church Of God In Christ. The book has been critically acclaimed by historians and Bible scholars.

Darrin Rodgers serves as the head librarian for the McAlister Library at Fuller Theological Seminary in Pasadena, California. "After reading Bishop C.H. Mason and *Those Sanctified Women!*, I personally contacted Evangelist Goodson to congratulate her for a job well done," Rodgers told *The Whole Truth*. "I've placed a copy of the book in the archives here at Fuller. It is a valuable resource for both scholars and researchers."

Evangelist Goodson explained to The Whole Truth that her inspiration for writing a book about the history of the Women's Department began in 1984, when she started her research on COGIC. "Once I started studying the rich history of our Church, I soon discovered a need to document it," she recalled. "A great deal of COGIC's history had been passed on beautifully through oral accounts, but a lot of it had not been actually documented."

This ongoing research led the dedicated author to a very interesting aspect concerning the ministry of our Church. "My research showed that many of COGIC's churches were established as a direct result of a work started by a woman," she said. "These saintly women of God either had a prayer ministry, Bible study, or outreach ministry. Their burden for souls would catch the attention of the jurisdiction's leaders, and from there a new church would be planted."

Yes, starting with its inception in 1911, when Bishop C.H. Mason appointed Mother Lizzie Robinson the first National Supervisor, the Department of Women has played a crucial role in the growth of COGIC. Whether it's through the Bible Band, evangelism, mentoring projects, or various

other areas of ministry, the Sanctified Women of COGIC are indeed effective witnesses and vessels of honor for the Lord.

In fact, the awesome impact that women have on the International Ministry of the Church Of God In Christ is clearly displayed in Evangelist Goodson's multi-dimensional ministry. Whether it's brining a message in church, a seminar in the community, or ministering to those in prison; this gracious lady of COGIC has a Word from God that will enlighten and uplift.

Committed to the declaration that the Prophet Isaiah gave in Isaiah 61:1 and that Christ read in Luke 4:18; *The Spirit of the Lord God is upon me; because he hath anointed me to preach...liberty to the captives, and the opening of the prison to them that are bound* – Evangelist Goodson has established both a Prison and an Emotional Healing ministry.

"My prison ministry is geared toward the women who are incarcerated at a facility in Gatesville, Texas," she told *The Whole Truth*. "I started the Emotional Healing phase of my ministry after working as a volunteer in that area for more than 10 years in various hospitals in the county of Dallas."

Evangelist Goodson said while ministering to women prisoners she learned that many of them had been abused as children – and as a result of that abuse they bare severe emotional scars. This caused them to act out their frustrations, and eventually led them to a life of crime – where unfortunately prison has become a revolving door for an alarming percentage of them.

"We are dealing with a high rate of recidivism with these women because of their unresolved emotional issues," she observed. "You can't effectively minister to them without confronting the lingering emotional wounds that are tied to different types of abuse. Through my ministry, God is setting these women free from the bondage of sin and healing their emotional scars."

The versatile evangelist noted that God has blessed her to have similar experiences in other areas of her ministerial work, which is known as *Higher Calling Ministries*. "I am giving God the Glory for moving through this ministry," she exclaimed. "Whether it's through the evangelistic arm, or the teaching sessions or seminars...God is using this ministry to make a difference in the lives of individuals from all segments of society. People are being saved and demons are being cast out."

It is no coincidence that a great deal of her work is focused on the Greater Dallas area. This anointed vessel of God is a Dallas native. She grew up in the rural section of that city as one of the 11 children born into the union of Elder Joseph and Mother Gladys Williams. They raised their children in COGIC, and instilled in them to love people and to fear God.

At his death, Elder Williams left behind an esteemed legacy for his family to honor and cherish. The distinguished minister was the founding pastor of Open Door COGIC. This historic church is considered the Mother Church for COGIC in the South Oak Cliff area of Dallas.

"My parents lived this sanctified life before us," Evangelist Goodson recalled. "They had an active prayer life and believed in the power of prayer. You can truly say that the Williams' children are a spiritual progeny of a prayer prayed by Bishop C.H. Mason. When my parents were first married, my mother could not bare children. One year at the Holy Convocation in Memphis, Bishop Mason laid hands on my mother and prayed for her. After that prayer, my parents were able to have all eleven of us... I am humbled to have a role in this great ministry of COGIC that is transforming lives throughout the world."

God is indeed using Evangelist Goodson to make a difference in society through ministry. Her evangelistic tours have included ministering in New York, Florida, Oklahoma, California, Tennessee, Arkansas and across Texas. Her presentations range from giving motivational and inspirational speeches to teens, to convening seminars on anti-gang violence to community leaders and young adults. She also produces workshops on developing strategies to ensure that teens will grow-up to be productive citizens, and on AIDS awareness.

The impact of Evangelist Goodson's work through Higher Calling has her in demand throughout the country as a youth speaker. She was invited to speak in Jonesboro, Arkansas following a school shooting. Community leaders were so impressed with her presentation that they had her featured on the local ABC Television news affiliate. Later, she was asked to revisit the area and speak at a youth rally.

With God moving so mightily through her ministry – you would think that Evangelist Goodson would have little time to excel in any other arena. A look at her career highlights, however, clearly shows that she also has made numerous contributions in the corporate sector.

Currently, she is a fulfillment manager with Dr. Pepper/Seven UP. This area operates with an annual budget of $20 million. Her duties include handling U.S. promotional fulfillment for the company. She

travels across the U.S. to review, inspect, resolve problems, and make recommendations for improving business processes. Additionally, she is responsible for developing strategies for new partnerships and for training. This is a position that demands exceptional communications and management skills.

Prior to starting her career with Dr. Pepper/Seven Up, Evangelist Goodson worked as an insurance representative for the Social Security Administration, and as a Community Relations Liaison and Contributing Features writer for the *Dallas Minority Opportunity News*.

This COGIC Woman is highly education. She received a MBA in Strategic Leadership from Amberton University, and a Bachelor's in English with a concentration in Creative Writing from Southern Methodist University. Additionally, she did Graduate Studies in Literature at Southern Methodist and studied Business Management at El Centro College.

Other honors and career highlights include being named the 1996 African American Female Writer of the Year by the Texas Black Women's Conference, Outstanding Achievement Award by Southern Methodist University, International Award-International Sunshine Band by the Church Of God In Christ, and being a Fiction Presenter, at Paul Quinn College's National Writer's Conference.

Evangelist Goodson serves COGIC with distinction on the local, state and national levels. She attends Open Door Church Of God In Christ, where Elder Glenn Tatum is Pastor. Open Door is a part of the Texas Northeast First Jurisdiction, where the Second Assistant Presiding Bishop J. Neaul Haynes is Jurisdictional Prelate. At Open Door, she is active in the Sunday School, and in the Women's and Evangelism departments. Her duties with Texas Northeast First include, serving as Executive Assistant to Bishop Haynes, Director of the Department of Women Public Relations Department, Jurisdictional Historian, and being a member of the Department of Women's Executive Staff.

Nationally she serves as a Scribe for the Department of Women, Consultant for the COGIC Writer's Conference, Instructor for the Women's History Class at the Holy Convocation's O.T. Jones Institute, and National Creative Writing Coordinator and Beginning Writer's Workshop Facilitator at the AIM Convention.

"God has highly favored me, and allowed me to serve this great Church on a national level," Evangelist Goodson said. "It is an abundant blessing to work with such anointed leaders as Mother Willie Mae Rivers. I have learned so much from our General Supervisor, her very life epitomizes the Sanctified Woman."

Evangelist Goodson has served in her capacity with *The Whole Truth* since 1996. This splendid writer credits Bishop Norman Quick and Dr. Larry Britton for giving her the opportunity to serve the COGIC Publishing Board Commission.

This veteran journalist is also a skilled filmmaker. Her most recent film, *Our Mothers' Stories*, is an 80 minute documentary on the storied heritage that was planted and cultivated by the leaders of the Department of Women. In this inspiring film, she interviews 20 Mothers of COGIC – who recall their work in the Department of Women and with the Church.

"I thank God for all the great women of COGIC," she said. "They helped mold me into the person that I am today. My mother (Gladys Williams), Supervisor Barbara McCoo, and Supervisor Victorine Mackey, were my mentors. Yes, I am thankful to God for all of the precious women of COGIC, especially the Mothers!"

The introduction of this well conceived and brilliantly produced documentary is made by Second Assistant Presiding Bishop J. Neaul Haynes. Mother Willie Mae Rivers, the Sixth General Supervisor for the Women's Department, captures the essence of the film with an articulate presentation that marks her climb up the rank of leadership in the department. Judge Mablen Ephraim, star of NBC's Divorce Court and a member of COGIC, makes the official introduction to the interview segment of the documentary.

Both the book, *Bishop C.H. Mason and Those Sanctified Women!* — and the video, *Our Mothers' Stories* are available at the COGIC Bookstore. You may phone (901) 525-4004 or fax (901) 525-4001, for additional information.

To contact this charming COGIC Woman for speaking engagements, you may write *Higher Calling Ministries*, 728 Sewell Street, Lancaster, TX 75146 or phone (214) 374-2883.

Hurricane Charley

Makes Way for the General Council Of Pastors and Elders Conference

By Vanessa L. Robinson



Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson presents a check for $10,000 to the Salvation Army

More than 3,000 delegates representing 47 states and Japan, Brazil and Africa convened in Orlando, Florida in August for the General Council of Pastors and Elders Conference of the Church Of God In Christ. Though hurricane Charley, with fierce winds and rain, managed to rip through Orlando more than a week before the national event, delegates braved the weather-torn city to experience what's been called one of the most successful conferences hosted by the General Council of Pastors and Elders, according to attendees.

"We wanted to give delegates a sense of being better equipped to put ministry into motion," says Superintendent Derrick W. Hutchins, chairman of the General Council. "There are a lot of active preachers, but not a lot of active ministry," he explained.

Ministry workers including pastors and their wives, deacons, elders, ministers and lay participants gleaned a wealth of information as General Board members Bishop J. Neaul Haynes, who is also the Second Assistant Presiding Bishop; Bishop Roy Winbush; and Bishop P.A. Brooks ministered in various sessions.

The theme of the conference, *Ministry in Motion* set the tone for a gathering designed to help ministry workers in the Church Of God In Christ be more effective inside their local churches as they impact the community at large.

Delegates saw first-hand the value of reaching beyond the walls of the church to minister to others when Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson made a special presentation in financial support to the victims of hurricane Charley. In a display of humanitarian outreach, Bishop Patterson presented a check in the amount of $10,000 from COGIC Charities to the Salvation Army of Central Florida. Additionally, a truck sponsored by COGIC Charities delivered 20,000 gallons of bottled water to the Second Harvest Food Bank.

It was the conference-goers, however, who were treated to a smorgasbord of preaching and teaching during day and evening sessions. Bishop Charles E. Blake, First Assistant Presiding Bishop and pastor of West Angeles COGIC, in Los Angeles, California, spoke on the Necessity of a Growing, Healthy Church. Bishops Wilbert S. McKinley, Noel Jones, Roger Jones and others captivated conference-goers with challenging messages, as did famed attorney, Willie Gary.

Presiding Bishop Patterson gave an overview of the state of the church as he answered questions regarding the denomination. During one of two forums held at the conference, the Presiding Bishop told delegates that he had decided not to move the Annual International Holy Convocation from Memphis to a different city. "We will remain in Memphis," he explained.

COGIC constituents were not the only participants to attend the conference. Stephen Strang, publisher of Charisma magazine, Pastor Jonathan McKnight, senior minister at Sanctuary of Praise Church of God by Faith and leaders from other affiliations attended.

Though the conference was held soon after a Category Four hurricane hit Florida, delegates were not deterred from enjoying two luxury hotels, the Ritz Carlton and the J.W. Marriott. Some attendees took advantage of amenities such as golf, day spas and shopping, while others made time for site seeing.

For Sister Gwen Fleming, the conference was rewarding and challenging. "The workshops and speakers were very informative," she explained, noting the level of "excellence" and "professionalism" the event reflected.

Workshops focused on issues dominant in ministry with discussions covering such areas as financial management, grants, media ministry, legal issues and more. The General Supervisor of Women, Mother Willie Mae Rivers, addressed hundreds of women during a special session held Friday.

Says Chairman Hutchins of the conference, "The General Council of Pastors and Elders is here to serve pastors and staff members, and it was our privilege to have done so."

Pastoral Care and Counseling "Relational Refugees"

By Quintin Robertson

As we continue in part four of this series on Pastoral Care and Counseling I must again reiterate that one who would minister to others must be willing to be transparent to the point that he or she is able to become a wounded healer. Ministry is more successful when one ministers from their own bruises, scars, and pains that have been healed over time through the power of God working in their lives to bring healing to others.

So far we have explored how one's personality is developed and how to retell one's own story within the Scriptures. In exploring the topic on personality development we examined how one's personality is formed and molded by genetics and environment. We then examined how knowing the development of one's personality aids in the process of understanding present behavior. In addition, we looked at how one moves from the feeling of shame to self-worth. We examined the life of Jesus and how shame was attached to him by the circumstances of his birth, his growth and development in his hometown, and his later ministry.

In this article we will look at how social problems such as violence, domestic strife and addiction have caused many to fall out of the social support networks, e.g. family, community, etc., and become "relational refugees." According to Dr. Edward P. Wimberly, Academic Dean and Distinguished Professor of Pastoral Care and Counseling at the Interdenominational Theological Center, "relational refugees" are persons not grounded in nurturing and liberating relationships. They are detached and without significant connections with others who promote self-development. He further states that they lack a warm relational environment in which to define and nurture their self-identity. As a consequence, they withdraw into destructive relationships that exacerbate rather than alleviate their predicament.

We will look at two persons in this article who are "relational refugees" and examined the factors that led to their withdrawal from nurturing and liberating relationships. We will see why Ms. Dee and Mr. Doe have destroyed the webs of support they need to cultivate a positive sense of self and, as a result, are incapable of having relationships with those who surround them.

Ms. Dee was struggling with her commitment to marriage and family because she had been sexually molested at an early age. This experience became the focal point of how she felt about herself. When she left her husband and children, the unresolved issues related to her molestation began slowly to surface. Having never resolved the violation of trust in intimate relationships as a child, Ms Dee found herself adrift as an adult.

Mr. Doe struggled profoundly to overcome his unusual sexual tendency. He desired intimacy but his self-loathing served as an insurmountable barrier. Unlike, Ms. Dee, Mr. Doe desperately desired to be in wholesome relationships with others, but found this impossible to achieve. Why? A mother and father who were emotionally unavailable to him reared Mr. Doe; thus he sought connection with others in anonymous sex. These unsatisfying encounters only increased his self-loathing, shame, and alienation from others. He felt completely unlovable and despaired over the prospect of ever finding someone who could really care for him.

Relational refugees, such as Ms. Dee and Mr. Doe, can be found throughout contemporary society. And in our contemporary society the advances in technology have affected our understanding of self. The computer, for instance, has become central in the lives of many of us. Computers for some have changed the form and quality of human relationships. Computers have made it possible to experience virtual reality. Thus, we can participate in relationships without the constraints of our fleshed selves, our genetic dispositions and our socioeconomic characteristic by creating another being. In virtual reality, real life is lived outside of relationships and the pain associated with them.

Living in virtual reality we come to imagine that it is possible to be a self while avoiding pain and suffering. And to live in this society is to experience pain and suffering. Thus relational refugees withdraw from nurturing relationships and rely solely on the self. Ms. Dee and Mr. Doe are relational refugees.

They have withdrawn from relationships and pursued a life of autonomy. They have destroyed the webs of support they need to cultivate a positive sense of self and, as a result, are incapable of healthy relationships with those who surround them.

Relational refugees need to restore for themselves nurturing relationships that can address their emotional needs. There are certain kinds of relationships that emotional refugees need to enter in order to help them become full participants in life and to achieve liberated selfhood. Relational refugees need positive relationships with one or more individuals whose attitudes they can internalize. Human beings need to be surrounded by people who have positive attitudes toward them, because such attitudes become the basis for one's own positive self-image. People become slaves by internalizing the attitudes of others.

Mr. Doe's self-loathing centered on his parent's aloofness and his feeling of homelessness after his family moved when he was five years old. He has never found friends or felt at home in the world since then. To heal, Mr. Doe needs simultaneously to come to some measure of self-acceptance and to counter the painful legacy of his upbringing by finding a strong network of support. Mr. Doe needs to enter a contract of love and nurture with a trustworthy friend or mentor who can lead him back to human community and companionship. In the context of positive relationship, Mr. Doe would learn to give and receive nurture as a way to counteract the negative messages he had previously internalized.

People learn to live in a healthy, whole manner by seeing such practices demonstrated by others they trust, imitating these patterns and rehearsing their own ways of living. Such experiences form internalized scenarios that govern how people interpret subsequent experiences. If people internalize only negative experiences, they will develop negative scenarios, which then become patterns of response to later experiences, whether positive or negative. Ms. Dee, for example, was sexually molested at the age of eleven. She had internalized this experience, and it became the dominant filter for interpreting her subsequent relationships. When her daughter reached the age of eleven, the negative scene took center stage. Unable to cope with the pain of the resurfacing memories, Ms. Dee withdrew from her husband and children. But Ms. Dee could not heal her pain by withdrawing. Instead, she needed to participate in nurturing relationships that could provide positive patterns to counteract the negative ones that haunted her.

Pastoral counseling can assist in the reintegration of relational refugees into nurturing communities. The techniques and concerns of pastoral counseling are important resources for the process of healing. Our church has an indigenous model of ministry that can facilitate the healing and wholeness of emotional refugees. The faith community has long practiced and supported mentoring relationships that foster individual growth and self-actualization.

Mentoring relationships in faith communities facilitate the adoption of positive attitudes, scenes, narratives and roles. For example, Mr. Doe joined a church and began to develop close relationship with men who he found maintained firm boundaries. He felt secure with these men and found these relationships as the basis for him to learn new patterns of living.

Pastoral counseling is the first step in the re-incorporation of relational refugees. The counseling can help the refugee move toward full participation in the faith community. Mentors are needed to help relational refugees re-integrate themselves into the community. The role of the mentor includes identifying the wider societal values that shape the context in which this process of healing occurs. The mentor helps to modify the negative influence of these wider societal values by facilitating the use of spiritual and religious legacy of the refugee.

Relational refugees are all alone, trying to find their way in the world. They feel abandoned by significant others as they try to sort out what is valuable and important. Mentors help immensely in this process of meaning making. With mentors as guides, *Relational refugees* become pilgrims, who are able to feel at home in the world, to participate in the life of a significant faith community and to engage in a purposeful and meaningful future.

A broader reading on this subject can be found in *Relational Refugees* written by Dr. Edward P. Wimberly and published by Abingdon Press. He discusses examples of social conflicts that are rooted in the breakdown of community. He proposes that the mentoring tradition can help us solve these problems by creating for refugees a meaningful place and home in the world. He suggests ways in which the church like a small village can provide a model of relationships that nurture and support the liberated selfhood of their members.

St. Louis Site of 54th Annual Women's International Convention

By Glenda Williams Goodson

Thousands of females – from lap babies to Sunshiners to young, middle aged and older women – streamed into St. Louis in the bright Missouri spring. It wasn't the first time these particular women gathered at this time of the year for this purpose – for this was the 54th Annual Women's International Convention of the Church Of God In Christ. They came with a clear purpose – the delegates wished to explore what General Supervisor Willie Mae Rivers would charge them with – as *Holy Women Bonding and Fulfilling Their God Given Assignments*.

Long before the May 31 convening Mother Rivers Women's International Convention team, led by WIC Coordinators Supervisor Olive Brown and Mother Carolyn Galbreath, successfully encountered and managed a variety of details to make ready for the women of God. Mother Rosa Ritters, Meeting Room/Lobby Space Coordinator stated, "We have to visit the site in advance then come in early to make sure rooms are properly assigned."

The Saturday preceding the conference 200 female executive staff attended the Leadership Conference for Supervisors and Assistants with 9,000 attending the Annual Leadership Conference held the Monday of the Convention. This year as always Evangelist Dorinda Clark Cole, Coordinator of Musical Guests, with Mrs. Bettye Nelson and International Music President Professor Iris Stevenson led an anointed pre-musical with special guests.

On Tuesday morning, June 1, Supervisor Teresa Bolden of Missouri Eastern First officially welcomed Mother Rivers and all delegates to the 54th Women's International Convention, "Let us open our hearts and minds…and thank the Lord for the beautiful cooperation of host and supporting jurisdictions," she said.

While pioneering Women's Convention Chorus President Dr. Anna Crockett Ford was missed, Evangelist Bettye Nelson did an excellent job in directing as evidenced by the fire of the first selection, *So Good I can't tell it all.* After the roll call, in a moving display of unity three Department of Women banners were presented in remembrance of members of the Board of Bishops, the Board of Supervisors and National Workers who have entered the Church Triumphant.

Sister Constance Griffin, Newport News, Virginia, a first time attendee took it all in. "I came looking for spiritual renewal and seeking God for some things," she said adding "I sell videos (but) until my shift starts at 3p.m. I'll be in service." This youthful saint really enjoyed the congregational singing led by Missionary Sarah Newtown, who sang an old 100, *Down Through the Years God Has Been Good to Me* and after she finished the room rang out with women who rejoiced crying "Thank you, thank you Lord!" Moderator, Supervisor Margaret Richardson, Supervisor of Missouri Western First said that she blessed her. (Mother Richardson's grandmother was Bishop Mason's secretary.)

> *Women's International Convention President Mother Willie Mae Rivers urges 15,000 women to bond together in prayer, fasting and unity.*

In her official response, Mother Rivers stated: "The Lord started speaking to my heart after the leadership conference and gave me the theme Holy Women Bonding and Fulfilling their God given Assignments." During the Rededication Mother Rivers laid hands on leaders and prayed for all the delegates. Ten thousand pins with a dove representing the Holy Spirit were distributed to each delegate. Sister Pearl Hubbard of Chicago, a mother of five stated, "I know we will receive a renewing and refreshing bonding with the women of God. (By) fellowshipping you understand that women have the same issues and problems and have a lot of inner anxieties released."

Mother Rivers seemed to possess stamina of women much younger than her years. Approximately 950 delegates ages 49 and under arose early to meet Mother Rivers at 7:30 a.m. for a "Chat with the General Supervisor." At the conclusion of this unique and welcomed time with Mother the army of 950 young women marched into the auditorium together. First time attendee, Tanya Mingo of Prayer Tower COGIC in Joliet, IL was thrilled. "I have always heard about the WIC and

since it was only a four hours drive, I came with four other ladies," she said. "The 49 and under age group was bonding and sharing with Mother Rivers."

On Tuesday night the first of the colorful Banner March began with the Women's International Convention banner the first. Others such as the greetings marched 50 strong along with high stepping bishop's wives marchers, national workers and jurisdictions. But thousands of women awaited the message from Mother Rivers. Before presenting Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson Second Assistant Bishop J. Neaul Haynes noted: "I said to Bishop Patterson when we came into the worship area that this was the most beautiful sight I have ever witnessed...all of these beautiful ladies in white." Bishop Patterson encouraged the delegation before saying to Mother Rivers "I want to compliment you again for the way you are leading the women of the Church Of God In Christ."

The gracious mother Elizabeth Nash, assistant International Supervisor, introduced the General Supervisor. "We came one way but we can go home another way because of our anointed leader Mother Willie Mae Rivers...our church is getting greater and greater and thank God He has given us a great leader...the Lord is doing great things for the women of the Church Of God In Christ."

Mother Rivers approached the podium singing *They Belong to God, all the glory, honor and praises*. She was appreciative of Bishop Patterson for allowing the women to have this special time along with General Board members Bishop J. Neaul Haynes, Bishop W.W. Hamilton, Bishop C.D. Owens, and Bishop P.A. Brooks. She commended Evangelist Bettye Nelson for the hard work she has done since the homegoing of Mother Ford as well as commending International President Iris Stevenson.

As they did each day, Evangelist Frances Kelley, Mother Annie Canty and the National Prayer Warriors and during the 6 p.m. hour Mother Rivers asked Mother Kelley to have some younger women join. "They prayed until the power of the God came in," said Mother Rivers.

"I just feel like talking out of my heart tonight," said Mother Rivers. "The Lord dropped in my spirit bonding and sticking together and the Lord gave me Holy Women Bonding and Fulfilling Their God Given Assignment for a theme with the scripture Ephesians 4:1-3, Colossians 2:2-3, Jeremiah 9:17-21 and Titus 12:3-5."

During the Wednesday morning service workshop Nigerian Supervisor Dr. Gloria Rodgers presented a presentation featuring a video on the work in Nigeria where the Lord has blessed her to feed hundreds each month. Trinidad Supervisor Margaret Moore reported that the saints have helped her raise money for scholarships for students. Supervisor Slack of Louisiana presented a beautiful inspirational message. Mother Sue McCoo of California First presented the Voice of Experience and told how her father served as the first principal of the Page Normal School in Hearne, Texas. Missionary Glenda Goodson gave a history of the Department of Women and shared her video she produced on the women. During the open forum Mother Rivers answered questions from female ordination (she referred the questioner to her local pastor) to the dress code (all saints dress decently). One young lady who was saved in last year's WIC after being on drugs was back again this year, still saved!

Mrs. Daisy Sherman, Chairperson of the Bishops' Wives Circle, presented scholarships to deserving students. The message on Wednesday evening by Mrs. Ruth Pryor, Michigan SW Third, was powerful and an inspiration for any mother yearning for her sons and daughters to come to the Lord. Women literally ran to the call of the Holy Ghost to pray that the saints return to fasting and praying. It is highly recommended that the video become a part of church and personal libraries.

At Thursday morning's breakfast: Shakeya Obie, Age 10, Community COGIC, NYC (Rev. Moses Green) gave her opinion of what the WIC means, "The musical was fun. The women's convention tells you what you should and shouldn't do. Mother Rivers is pretty and nice. Last year she sung with the Sunshine Band choir."

During her address Mother Rivers said when the Holy Ghost came in the scheduled program would have to wait and Thursday morning He broke through the services! The breakthrough began after Supervisor Mary Jeter South Carolina Jurisdiction delivered a powerful inspirational message. "Return to your local church and work with the pastor and church mother. The bonding power of the Holy Ghost is in this place. Stay away from assignment killers and vision killers," she proclaimed. Beautifully attired women allowed the Spirit to refresh them as older mothers walked and danced across the floor as God walked heavily. The usually reserved International Co-marshal Dr. Juliet White joined in the dance as Mother Rivers walked throughout the auditorium praying and laying hands on her daughters. International Marshall Supervisor Barbara Lewis called for the choir; Evangelist Bettye Nelson led If it had not been for the Lord on my side and another wave of the Spirit entered as the Deaf Ministry coordinator began to dance. COGIC First Lady Louise Patterson got so happy that she began praying and laying hands on Mother Washington.

Mother Mary Beth Kennedy, Supervisor of the Congo (Central Africa) provided insight on the work of COGIC women by reporting that area is in the midst of the AIDS pandemic and war. "God has been with me since I was a young woman in my 20's when I started in West Africa with Mother (Beatrice) Lott. We have built two orphanages and working on a third...along with one in Angola. We have 12 feeding centers but many of our saints are eating only 2-3 times per week," she said. "Rebel soldiers, regular soldiers are all around and we have to drive through areas where rebels were raping and torturing." Haitian pioneer missionary Dr. Dorothy Exume finds strength during the WIC. "I've been coming since 1951 and haven't missed one," she said.

Mrs. Doris Edge presented an historical update of the workshops. Supervisor Regina Edwards, Michigan SW First has been in the church 52 years and said during the inspirational message, "We need to get excited about our assignment. Get busy on this assignment through the ministries of the church."

For anyone who loves to be a financial blessing to leaders, the Love Shower for Mother Rivers was a time to confirm it in a material way. Mother Elizabeth Nash, Assistant General Supervisor, New Jersey First Supervisor Olive Brown, WIC

Coordinator, Mother Carolyn Galbreath, WIC Co-coordinator and their staffs decorated the lower stage to resemble an airline's first class seating. As delegates listened to the sounds of an airplane's take off, a "flight attendant" escorted WIC President Rivers to her assigned seat near a set of red luggage. Deborah Gullick, Charlotte, NC enjoyed it all. "It's wonderful!

The host and supporting Jurisdictional Bishops and Supervisors presented their convention gifts causing Mother Rivers to thank God for Bishop Ward "for demanding that we bring this convention to St. Louis along with the co-hosts for their wonderful hospitality." (As an example of the area's hospitality, Bishop R.J. Ward later commended Austin A. Layne of Kansas Central for providing limousines to pick up Mother Rivers and others at no cost.)

In her message Missionary Alberta Harper of Central Georgia admonished the holy women to pray to a God who understands. "If you feel like you've been looked over, remember that if you have a real ministry, don't worry about being misunderstood. Just see God and realize its God will and He understands."

On Friday Missionaries Priscilla Nkomo and Queelina Ngceke agreed that since 1999 when they began taking the 16-hour journey to get to America to the WIC from South Africa it's been worth it. "We have received a lot…we are able to start doing our women's convention after seeing what was happening here. We are now in line. We bought material for Sunshine Band," said Ngceke. We have learned as leaders how to behave and how a leader should dress," said Nkomo. Both women stated that Mother McCoo Lewis' book, Saintly Decorum has helped them tremendously.

In an impressive display of dedication to the hard yet important work of training children and youth, Dr. Lytia Howard and Mother Thelma Cotten produced an enjoyable Sunshine Band and Purity Class program. Approximately 250 Sunshine Band members began with, *Thou Art My God* and the Puritans began with cheers. One four-year-old Sunbeam recited both the Old and New Testaments. Sunshine Band and Purity Class children and youth delighted the delegates with songs, the Word of God, praise dancing, saxophone selections and recitation. Kansas City, Eastern Missouri First, California First, Kansas SW were some jurisdictions representing. Missouri Eastern 2nd's rendition of I Am a Solider in the Army of the Lord, which was especially winsome as the younger children dressed in soldiers' uniforms sang heartily. The Mass Sunshine Band choir's second selection, *Just Because He's My God* was very good. Another highlight was Eastern Missouri Second Purity Class recital of The Creation as one girl sang *Cooling Waters from Grandma's Well.*

Noting that all children and youth did not have opportunity to perform Mother Rivers indicated that time would be provided for them to do so during the evening services. Mother Gladys Williams of Texas said, "Now that is a mother." Kansas SW Jurisdiction was able to perform their praise dance then Kansas Central Jurisdiction's Alise and Alexa Williams sang. Their dad, who had flown in from Iraq, was asked to come up on stage to the applause of the delegates. Mother Rivers told him that it was God's plan for them to run out of time so that he would be able to hear his children and assured him that the entire church was praying for America's troops.

COGIC First Lady, Mother Louise Patterson, greeted delegates and honoring her husband stated "GE brings good things to life." In her congratulatory remarks she told Mother Rivers that "you were excellent in your address and the convening of the meeting" and she had thoroughly enjoyed the 54th WIC. "We want the bonded women to come more unified so we can tear the devil's kingdom down. Satan is trying to discourage us…that holiness is not right but Satan is a lie!" she proclaimed.

To sit at the feet of Presiding Bishop Patterson is not to ride on a sea of emotion but to become further educated in history, sagacity and, if needed, be reconciled to what it means to live holy. "Although the Sprit came upon an individual from time to time in Joel He said I will pour out my Spirit on all flesh. People are shouting and they need to be restored. They're coming to church but they need to be restored. The reason we're not able to restore is because we don't have the Holy Ghost. Many churches don't even teach it."

Preaching from the text, Luke 13:10-13, he stated that Jesus released the woman from her infirmities, but He didn't release her from her responsibilities. "There are male responsibilities and female. When the man is unwilling to commit as a provider and the woman will not be subject, the children are confused. I never thought I would see men and women licensed to marry the same sex. Homosexuality is not a civil right", the Presiding Bishop said. Satan is playing for keeps and Bishop Patterson pointed out that the saints must stand for holiness and righteousness. "I never thought I'd see sanctified people empathize with what God calls an abomination. A lot of folk call themselves preaching and God hasn't called them. God holds me responsible for telling the truth. Loosed does not mean you are loosed form your responsibility."

Acknowledging that from the beginning of Jesus' ministry, He used women to minister concerning His need Bishop Patterson drew laughter when he stated, "The women have always taken care of the preacher." He said that Jesus saw the woman in the text. He knew her plight and He called her to Him. "He loosed her from her infirmity, sickness, cancer, mental problems." He concluded by calling the delegates to Jesus singing as only he can, "You can only be blessed...it's all on the altar" and exhorted the women by saying "You're already loosed and delivered!"

Before putting away the banner until 2005, Mother Rivers gave God all the glory, honor, for another great convention. "It's my desire that the women bond together…winning the lost to His kingdom. Be faithful to the ministries. Aged women – be examples of holiness."

As they exchanged names and numbers with new friends, young women from Virginia and Germany summarized their WIC experience declaring that "We're going to do what Mother Rivers said (to bond)."

Sherron Williams of Texas contributed to this article.

Book Review

True Vine: A Young Black Man's Journey of Faith, Hope and Clarity.

By John W. Fountain. (New York: Public Affairs, 2003).

John W. Fountain is a professor of journalism at University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana and recently a former nationalist correspondent for THE NEW YORK TIMES, based in Chicago. He has previously been a reporter for the CHICAGO TRIBUNE and THE WASHINGTON POST. He earned his bachelor's and master's degrees from the University of Illinois at Champaign-Urbana, and has been a Michigan Journalism Fellow at the University of Michigan.

By Quintin Robertson

True Vine is a must read for all! It relates to our congregations in the inner-cities. It relates to our young men growing up in the urban centers of America. It relates to Pentecostal youth who must face the challenges of life within a world going counter clockwise to the teachings of the church. It relates to women; mothers, wives and sisters who love black men. *True Vine* will inform the readers understanding of what a poor black Pentecostal young man faces growing up in America and fulfilling his dream.

True Vine is the testimony of John Fountain who, growing up on Chicago's West Side in K-Town, was drowning in a sea of poverty and shame. Raised in his grandfather's Pentecostal church he experienced the therapeutic value of the testimony service. Although at that time his testimonies were not a confession about his present condition (and yet at the same time they were), they were also a profession of faith about what he believed he would become one day through the help of God. These testimonies were not just given on Sundays, but were given during the Tuesday and Friday morning prayer sessions when the church's prayer warriors met, of which his grandmother was faithful.

It was through the prayers and testimonies of the saints that he gained strength to endure his own challenges and developed a personal relationship with the God of his faith.

The underlining message that is weaved throughout the book is HOPE. The author states that no matter how poor a person is or how dire their circumstances, as long as that person has breath there is hope. Hope is the ability to see beyond circumstances, no matter how bleak, and see one's self through the lenses of possibility. This hope comes from being connected to the "true vine." When that vine is rooted in soil, and nursed by the rain and sun; then will its branches spread freely over walls, rippling across thresholds, bearing fruit, and growng beyond containment, boundaries, and imaginations.

The author shares his life in a way that shows how faith and hope can take one from inner-city poverty to a better life. The power of this faith and hope is grounded in his family and church background. His family and church is the soil that produces a journalist for a major USA newspaper in the midst of a part of America that is filled with poverty mixed with teenage pregnancy, welfare dependency and marginal employment. Maybe that is why the author uses the title "True Vine", because John W. Fountain is a branch stemming from a strong family and wonderful faith-filled church.

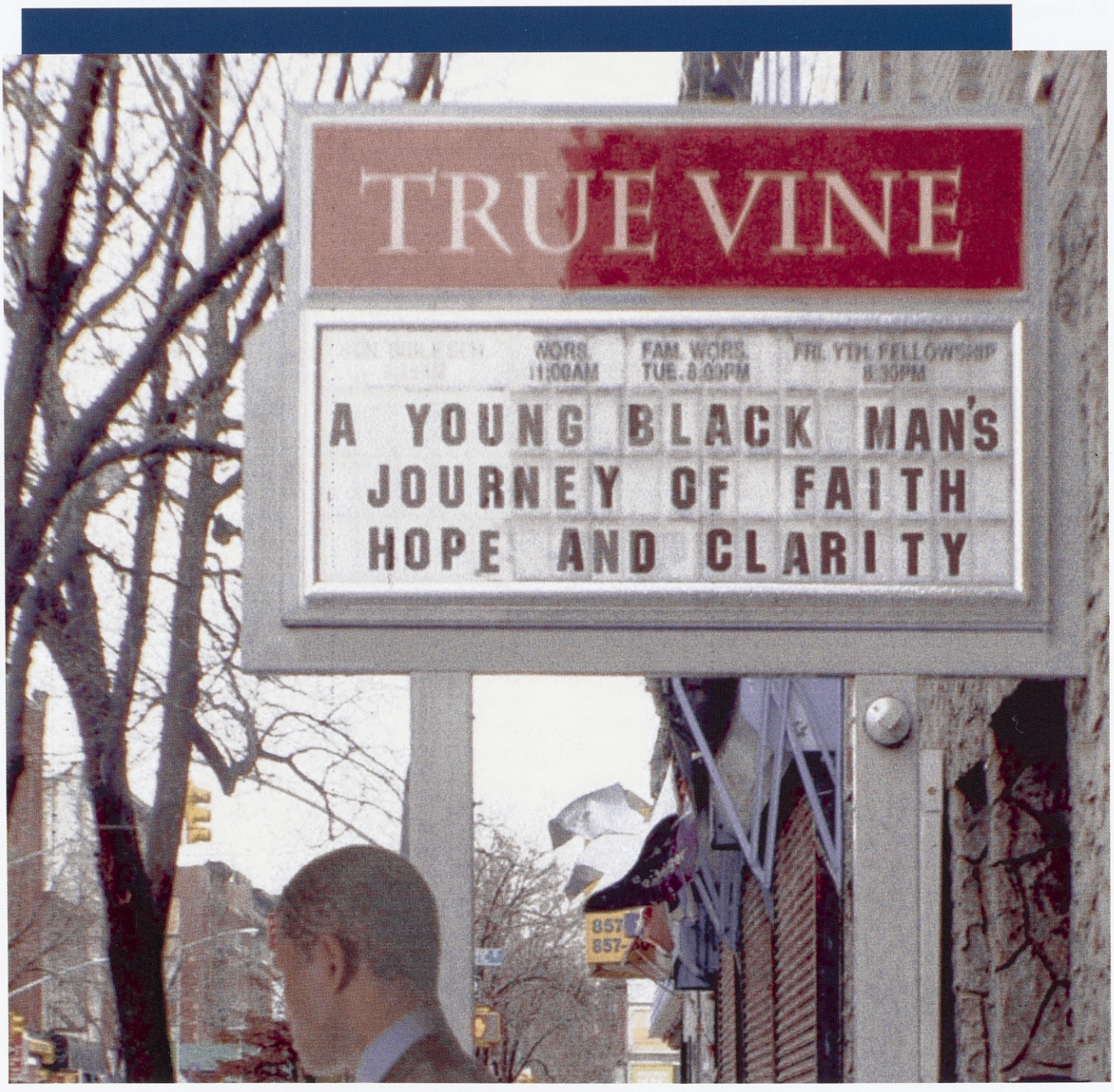
John Fountain is the first born of a teenage mother who hopes to achieve success were dashed, and the grandson of a COGIC Pastor and District Missionary. He becomes a teenage father, a college dropout, a welfare recipient and a sad statistic of many African American males living in the inner cities of our nation. Fortunately, the faith that he was given by his immediate family and his extended church family helped him to resurrect his dream and discover that faith is not just a religious exercise, but that which projects one into the arena of possibilities irregardless of one's present circumstance. Faith looks beyond bleak circumstances and drives one to rise above the pits and potholes that keep people down.

As I read this book of a poor inner city African American male who defied the odds that have entrapped so many others; I was faced with the question of the relevance of the church (Church Of God In Christ) as we progress in America. John Fountain outgrew his old neighborhood that was filled with crime and poverty. Not only did he leave his old neighbor-

hood, but also every member of his mother's immediate family (his grandparents, aunts and uncle). And even the storefront church after a major fire. So I asked myself while reading this book, what role did religion (his faith) play in the author's life? How did religion function as a vehicle for upward social mobility? How did his faith help him make meaning of his existence?

Fortunately I was able to communicate with the author via email and I raised these questions with him. After his response I could clearly see how his immediate family, extended church family and education played a major role in his development. His faith in God as taught to him at True Vine Church of God in Christ provided him with the structure and motivation for success. The encouragement of the saints to seek an education to improve his quality of life was a source of comfort and encouragement to him in times of doubt. And in school he discovered the gifts and graces that were so natural to him, such as writing.

Given the neighborhood he was in and the neighborhood that the church was located, he was destined to become a victim of the streets. But a community within a community; a community of faithful believers who trusted in a God who was also faithful to those who trusted in Him saved him. And through his salvation, education nourished and molded him into the success he is today. As the title states, John Fountain is a branch connected to the "*True Vine*." He has been pruned by his relationship with Christ and his pursuit of education. These have made him the man that he is today bearing fruit for the kingdom of God through journalism. How proud we are of him, a member of the Church Of God In Christ reaching the masses through literature and higher education.



COGIC VENDOR PROVIDES EFFICIENCY & COST SAVINGS IN THE CHURCH OFFICE

By Gary Cantor – Imagistics Account Manager for COGIC and Dennis Blanco - Imagistics Regional Digital Solutions Consultant

How successfully you manage the operations of your church has a direct impact on the overall growth of your congregation. With the escalating costs of managing a church or any day-to-day business, it is critical that money is appropriated wisely and that you choose vendors to do business with carefully. Is the money that is raised from Sunday offerings and other means being put to the best possible use? Realizations of the true costs of business equipment need to be important considerations for wise money spent. True costs involve much more than the initial cost of equipment. A perfect example is operational costs, which can determine a true cost per copy to produce a document within your church. Effectively analyzing service, supplies, outside printing such as color for church bulletins and manpower production hours that are used, are important goals to achieve. To help your Church reach these goals and capture lost dollars, Imagistics (www.imagistics.com) is a consultative vendor for print management solutions (copiers, printers, scanners, facsimile) that warrants consideration.

Imagistics is a financially sound company that has been a technology leader for over 40 years. Imagistics is not a dealership network, but rather a nationwide direct source for sales, service and customer support of award winning equipment. Imagistics has a proven track record with equipment placements in COGIC locations, including World Headquarters. Imagistics also provides vendor sponsorship at COGIC events throughout the year, including Convocation. As a COGIC member, you have the added benefit of taking advantage of a special pricing program on the entire Imagistics product line, inclusive of service and supplies. Recent Imagistic recognition includes: "Most Outstanding Multifunctional Product Line of 2003" by Buyers Laboratory Inc.

Included within Imagistics impressive product line offering is the ability to offer your church a user-friendly piece of commercial grade equipment that not only produces great copies, but also serves as a fax, scanner and printer direct from your PC. It is well known that most organizations today have at least one fax, maybe several printers, and maybe even a scanner or two. If we look at the costs involved in maintaining and purchasing the supplies needed to continue utilization of these, the costs can become astronomical throughout the years. Additionally, outsourcing costs can really add up as well, especially within businesses who require specialized printing needs such as brochures, pamphlets...etc. The goal within Imagistics is to streamline COGIC business by providing one complete cost effective solution that can be utilized to meet the requirements of several pieces of hardware.

Utilizing examples related to the COGIC organization, churches often require finished pamphlets to be reproduced by an outsourced firm, which can be very costly to them. Examining these related costs, as well as looking at innovative ways to produce these pamphlets in house, is an option Imagistics can offer through the use of multifunctional products. Imagine the ability to be able to reproduce church bulletins as needed without having to depend on someone to print them for you and charge you for this service. What would it mean to your church if you could easily produce full color, folded and center stapled bulletins right from your desktop at up to 31 prints per minute and for less than 10 cents per color print? This "Pick of the Year" based on performance and reliability from Buyers Laboratory is but one of the many Imagistics product available to COGIC at a reasonable cost.

One of the hottest features in product flexibility is scanning and Internet faxing. Instead of utilizing a slow desktop platen scanner, the user can utilize a copier's document feeder to scan documents in and to create a multi page image, which can be attached to E-Mail and sent, or stored in a file for future needs. Although simple faxing can be accomplished from most of multifunctional products, some include a PC-Fax utility feature that allows for faxing from their desktop computers, which eliminates the need for normal transmissions through phone lines. All this leads to a product, which not only provides more efficiency throughout your church, but also helps lower costs and offers an excellent return on investment.

Imagistics sells and supports a variety of large to small equipment that can be right sized for the specific needs of your church. Please ask about the powerful but small multifunctional all in one desktop Imagistics model ix2700 that a number of COGIC locations are enjoying. Features include 17 prints per minute, high-speed fax modem, OCR scan, automatic document feeder, duplex copying, and platen glass. Special COGIC pricing includes full-service and unlimited chemical supplies.

For further information or to arrange a complimentary product demonstration, please contact the Imagistics account manager for COGIC – Gary Cantor @ gary.cantor@imagistics.com or call toll free @ 800/247-6860.

COGIC On the Move

By GW Goodson

Missionary Returns from Africa

Los Angeles—Missionary Dorris Ngaujah of the Robbins Memorial Church Of God In Christ (Elder Emanuel Collins) recently returned home from a mission trip to Nyahururu, Kenya. As a guest of Rev. and Mrs. Wachira Ngamau of PACE Ministries, Missionary Ngaujah was part of a team who distributed toys to orphaned children, trained village teens in dressmaking, and participated in women's conferences. For further information contact Sis. Ngaujah at 323.369.7510.

Supervisors Without Charge

Research Female Pioneers

Memphis—The Supervisors Without Charge (Mother Theda Wells, Chairperson) are currently collecting information to be printed about pioneer women who have made contributions to the church and community. Each Supervisor Without Charge has been asked to seek out and report the information on such pioneers. Submit information to Mother Wells at P.O. Box 1052, Memphis, TN 38101 and specify Attn: Supervisors Without Charge.

Central Florida Jurisdiction #1 Convenes 30th Annual State Women's Convention

Florida—Supervisor Elizabeth Crooms and the Central Florida Jurisdiction #1 (Bishop R.L. Dixon) were the host for the 30th Annual State Women's Convention in Kississimme, Florida at the Radisson Worldgate Resort Hotel September 28-October 1, 2004. The theme follows the Women's International Convention: Holy Women Bonding and Fulfilling Their God Given Assignment. "Our convention is set on the style of the national convention.with daily prayer, workshops and anointed messages," explained Mother Crooms. Evening sessions speakers were Evangelist Glenda Goodson of Texas, Supervisor Crooms and Bishop R.L. Dixon.

Texas SE Jurisdiction Holds Summer Convocation

Texas—The historic "State Temple" a site frequently visited by COGIC founder Bishop Mason was home to the Texas Southwest Holy Convocation July 19-25. Bishop S.E. Iglehart and Supervisor Annie Cooper hosted COGIC officials such as General Board Member Bishop

Nathaniel Wells and when Presiding Bishop G.E. Patterson preached to standing room only crowds spilled out into the grounds. Preaching from Elder Sherman Allen and Jurisdictional Prelate Bishop Iglehart was outstanding, the saints danced and rejoiced, thousands of dollars were given to students in scholarships and the pastors were blessed with over $50,000 on Good Shepherd Night.

BOOKS

New Book by General Supervisor

South Carolina—A compilation of messages, "Sermons from the Heart" is now available from Mother Willie Mae Rivers. The fifteen messages include The Believer's Warfare; Make the Most of Your Life, The Secret to Success and To Be at the Feet of Jesus. This is a must for your church or personal library.

Supervisor Freddye Carter Writes To Singles

Texas—Texas Northeast First Jurisdiction (Bishop J. Neaul Haynes) Supervisor Freddye Carter has written a new book entitled "To Burn or Not To Burn." The book contains practical information and a wealth of wisdom for singles. Chapter titles include "How Do I Recover from an Unhealthy Relationship," "What do you do when you were a victim of Incest?," "Why 'Save' Myself for my Future Marriage Partner" and much more. "I have observed young women struggling with sexual emotions...and wrote this book to illumine the Word of God in the heart of the reader," says Mother Carter. For information write to Freplace Publications, 317 Hood Street Waco, Texas 76704 or call her at 254.752.6267.

MUSIC

Check Out These New CD's:

My Sufficiency – The Spoken Word, Music & More by Evangelist Karen R. Bowen. Contact His Spirit Creations @ 614.570.8840

Remember Now Thy Creator by Lori Stallworth & Joyful Sounds. Phone 502.

Philadelphia, PA – Garden of Prayer COGIC Celebrates 75 Years of Effective Ministry

Elder Gregory L. Frison, Pastor of Garden of Prayer COGIC, along with the membership and well-wishers celebrated the church's 75th anniversary on April 25. Guest pastors that spoke on that day were sons of the ministry. Elder John Roberts, Pastor of the World's Prayer Center was the morning speaker and Elder Clarence Lewis, Pastor of First Calvary COGIC, was the afternoon speaker.

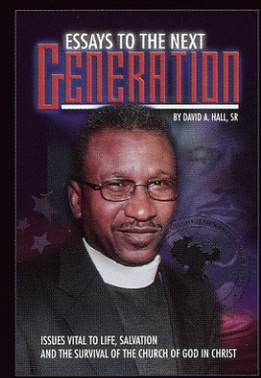
Garden of Prayer is located at 2800-2814 Diamond Street in Philadelphia. The church was established in April of 1929, by co-founders Dr. Benjamin Hayes and Mother Elizabeth Juanita Dabney. For 75 years the tradition at Garden of Prayer has been to follow the commission of the co-founders to – pray, teach, and preach the Gospel. Mother Dabney's book, *What It Means to Pray Through*, is still a highly requested reading. Pastor Frison is also a son of the ministry at Garden of Prayer, and he often notes the significance of the church's name and the importance of prayer in his sermons.

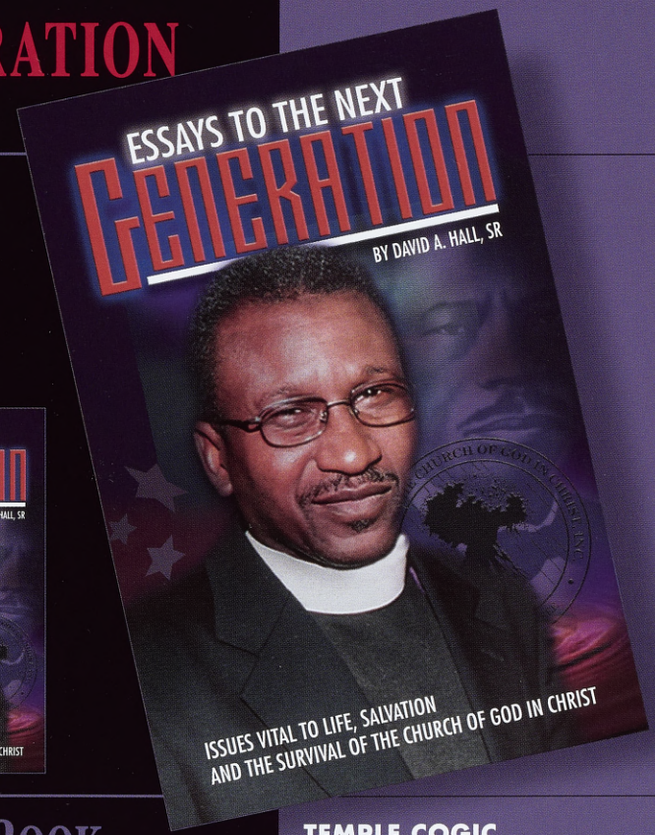
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By David A. Hall, Sr

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7. ECUMENICAL RELATIONS: AN EMERGING POLICY
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HERE COMES THE JUDGE

FINDING FREEDOM IN THE PROMISED LAND

G. E. PATTERSON

YOU CALL YOURSELF A CHRISTIAN.

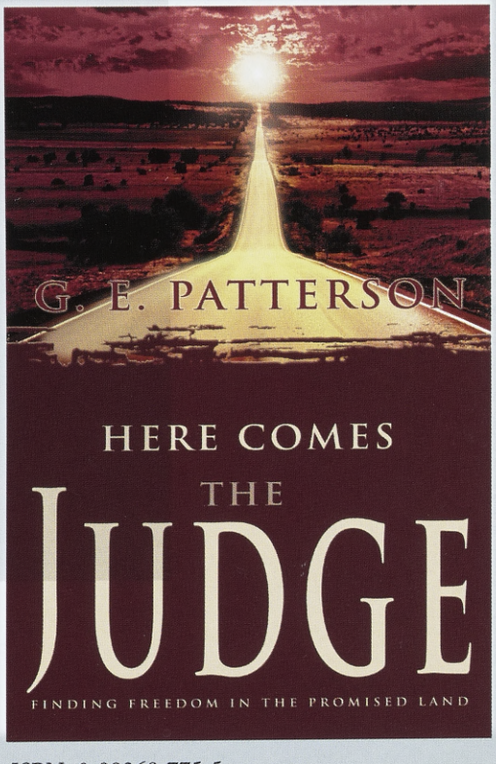
You say that you have surrendered your entire life to God, and you're living in the Promised Land of your salvation.

But it seems that the feeling of fulfillment was temporary—replaced by emptiness. Sickness has crept in where health should be. What about your finances? You thought you would be rich, not just living from day to day. Depression has become a way of life. The feeling of freedom and power has been replaced by bondage and fear.

But God loves His people, and He loves you too much to let you shrivel up in a dungeon of depression or helplessness. In the days of the Old Testament, God sent men and women with the authority to deliver His people from oppression, even when they didn't deserve His mercy. These deliverers were called "judges," because they brought His justice and mercy into balance in the lives of His people. Today, you have the greatest Judge of all—Jesus Christ.

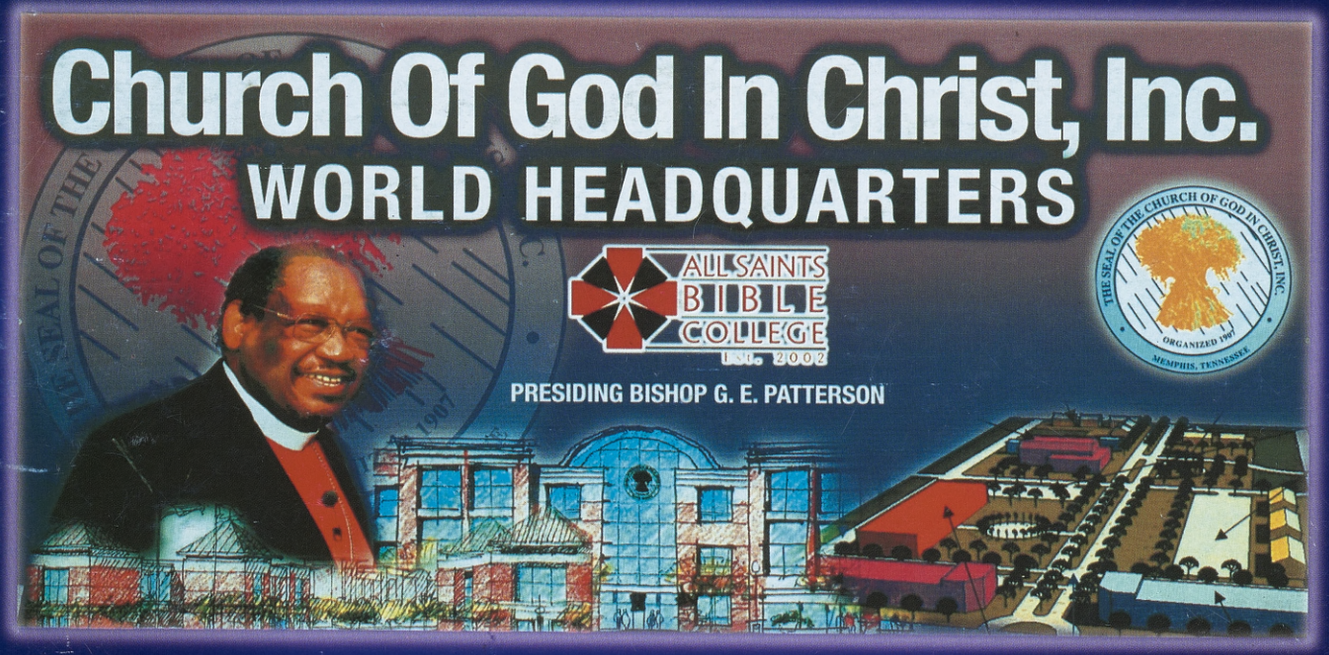
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